

Industrial Worker

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Airline Workers Need Industrial Union Solidarity



A Fighting Response

While flight attendants ultimately abandoned their strike to return to work at whatever terms the government's arbitration panel eventually dictates, Air France workers have demonstrated what industrial solidarity and direct action can accomplish.

When Air France announced plans to lay off 4,000 workers and slash bonus payments for night, weekend and holiday work (as part of a plan to sell the government-owned carrier), thousands of workers marched across French airfields October 26 to close the airline down. They were joined by workers from the domestic airline system, Air Inter, as well as by ground staff from the Paris airports.

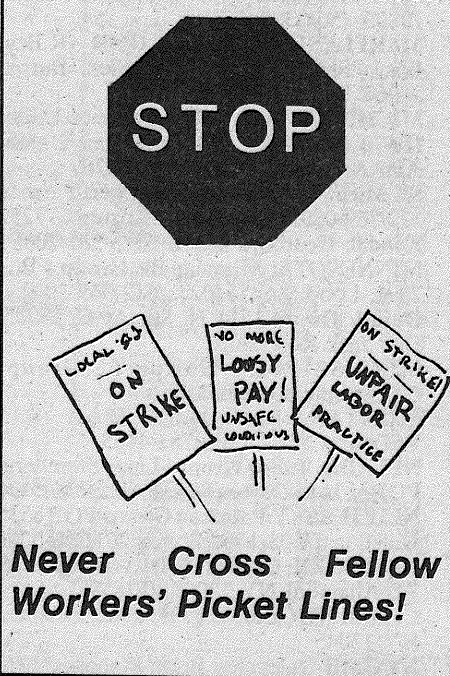
The Air France battle began when air freight workers struck October 12, ground workers joined in one week later. The strike also included many groups of nonunion workers. The October 26 all-out strike was called in an effort to get the government to negotiate. The airport occupations succeeded in shutting down most Air France operations and nearly halted the entire French air transport system. The strike also threatened to spread to the Paris Metro subway system and to France's nationalized railways.

The strikes expanded as workers began to walk off the job and march on many airports. The government began to panic, recognizing the potential for the strike to evolve quickly into a general strike against unemployment and austerity. Transport Minister Bernard Bosson was then forced to announce that the cutbacks would be canceled. "It was a revolt as we have not seen since 1968," said Bosson, explaining the reversal to the French Parliament.

The government pullback led to the resignation of Air France head Bernard Attali. But this did not stop the

upsurge. In mass rallies on October 26, workers at Charles de Gaulle Airport, France's largest airport, voted to stay off the job until the government dropped legal action against strikers and paid workers for strike days. Workers represented by the CGT and the CFDT (French unions do not have exclusive representation rights, instead each bargains for its own members) demanded a written guarantee that the austerity plan would be withdrawn. And when Force Ouvrière leaders tried to get their members to return to work without this guarantee, they were shouted down.

Crimestoppers Textbook for Industrial Unionists



The American Airlines strike is over, at least for now, but the airlines' assault against their workers seems certain to continue. Several U.S. airlines successfully busted unions of pilots, flight attendants, machinists and other workers over the past decade; those unions which managed to survive the onslaught universally made concessions. Northwest recently forced deep concessions on its workers, United is demanding that workers allow the carrier to establish a non-union subsidiary, TWA remains in the air only because workers agreed to deep concessions in exchange for an ownership stake (but no control).

Airline workers are fighting back! Flight Attendants at American shut the airline down for 5 days recently despite a lack of solidarity from other unions. At United Airlines, where workers have long been negotiating to trade concessions for ownership, union members have been advised to follow all safety regulations and work rules to the tee.

American Strike Abandoned

Flight attendants had successfully shut down American Airlines' passenger operations before President Clinton intervened in their strike. American Chairman Robert Crandall said American agreed to binding arbitration because of Clinton's personal appeal, but the union clearly had the company on the ropes. "Although we would have preferred a different approach," Crandall said, "we are anxious to put our airplanes back in the air [and] our people back to work."

However, not all of American's people are back at work. American Airlines has fired 15 flight attendants on strike-related charges, and suspended more than 80 others. In addition, some pilots were suspended on charges that they did not cooperate with scabs and the company "police" brought in to harass strikers.

Although the back-to-work agreement does prevent American from carrying out its threat to "permanently replace" the 21,000 strikers, its failure to protect striking members has left their union membership unprotected. The union's reliance on "binding government arbitration" puts them in an extremely difficult situation as management seeks to discharge strong union members and weaken the union in any future confrontation.

This agreement was reached even though the Flight Attendants were in a very strong position. After 10 years of concessions left them making 40% less in real dollars than they had earned in 1983, flight attendants had clearly had

enough. But rather than enter into a prolonged fight with the airline, they called an 11-day strike to coincide with the Thanksgiving holiday--short enough that they would be back on the job before the airline was able to recruit and train scabs.

Although 95% of flight attendants joined the strike, machinists continued servicing and pilots continued flying the empty planes. Nearly every flight left without passengers, however, since federal law requires the presence of attendants for passenger flights.

Although the pilots had considered joining the strike, the Allied Pilots Association decided not to count the strike ballots after American went to court seeking an anti-strike injunction. The APA claimed that "the need for a sympathy strike has been superseded by the overwhelming success of the flight attendants' strike." While the APA claimed its picket-line crossing was intended to aid the strike (by flying empty planes, which cost money for fuel, wages, landing fees, etc.), American Airlines was quick to claim victory, "We are pleased at the pilots' desire not to strike, but not surprised."

The strength and solidarity among the attendants took American by surprise. For several years now, flight attendants have been forced to swallow concessions because other airline unions refused to support their struggles. The result is that the lowest-paid flight attendant working at American makes \$14,000 a year, and nearly half make less than \$20,000.

B-Scale Wages

American has long been a pioneer in slashing wages. Ten years ago, amidst deregulation and cutthroat competition, American pressured unions to accept a lower "B-scale" starting wage for new workers. American Airlines then used millions of dollars of these new workers' unpaid wages to expand its operations and generate mega-profits. After being introduced at American, two-tier wage schemes were forced on unions at virtually every major U.S. carrier.

One of the few people to actually fly American during the strike was Defense Secretary Les Aspin, who crossed a picketline to fly to a Caribbean vacation. After the strike began, the Federal Aviation Authority tried to help bust the strike by approving an emergency, shortened safety-training period of 10 days to enable American to hire scabs to replace the strikers (instead of the usual 19 days). When this was not enough, Clinton intervened to pull American's fat from the fire.

Union is about Solidarity!

Boston Airport Closed: 300 members & supporters of Teamsters Local 25 blocked a tunnel leading to Boston's airport during rush hour Nov.19. Traffic all over Boston was gridlocked for nearly an hour. As the cops moved one group of protesters away, another group waded into the tunnel's mouth.

The Teamsters are locked in a bitter dispute with Signature Flight Support, the largest airline fueler at Logan Airport. Signature is demanding deep cuts in wages & benefits; under the company's final offer -- unilaterally imposed last January -- fuelers' starting pay was slashed from \$9.30 to \$7/hour.

At the conclusion of the tunnel demonstration, the protesters went *en masse* to join American Airlines flight attendants' picket lines at the airport. How much more effective might that solidarity have been if they had

instead refused to refuel AA planes?

Flight attendants waged a courageous battle at American, but a genuine labor movement would not have forced them to fight alone. For years airlines have been cutting payrolls, slashing wages and imposing dangerous working conditions. They have succeeded because each group of workers has stood alone. Strike after strike has been defeated, as each group of airline workers scabbed on the others.

But unionism is about solidarity--standing together to win what we can not gain alone. If pilots, machinists, flight attendants, ground crew, catering workers, baggage handlers--all the different groups of workers so necessary to running an airline--resolved to stand together, no boss, no government injunction, no arbitration panel could make them budge.

Letters From the Industrial Landscape



Dear IWW Members:

I have a few questions about the IWW for a paper I'm writing.

a) How has IWW's goals and methods changed from the 1920s up to the present? How did events in the 50's and 60's affect the IWW?

b) How does an anarchist deal with being in an organization? How do the 2 (seemingly) different concepts of the IWW and anarchism mix?

c) Are there any books that talk about the IWW which you can recommend?

d) I was hoping to write the paper with people from different generations who are/have been members of the Wobblies. Thanks.

Ray Ramos
Represent, represent...
rayr@cats.ucsc.edu

The Editor:

This morning I was treated to Senator Edward M. Kennedy, the Chappaquidick Pig, whose family has the funds to support his sexual affairs, advocating the new abortion protection bill passed by the U.S. Senate. This bill should give heart to the Frank Jordans of the world, who can now make total war not only on the poor and unemployed but can with legal sanction rip apart bodies in their mothers wombs.

The Senate will pass NAFTA, and with cheap foreign labor and increasing

automation, they will need even fewer American workers. The medical death squads and big business interests will be better served.

The Chronicle, The Examiner, The Supes will not publish this letter, as they are dependent for their survival on big business and the time honored tradition of exploiting and robbing the poor; by taxpaying and other methods of capital formation. The Supes gives \$2- 1/2 million to eradicate this and other expressions of Constitutionally guaranteed Free Speech. Long live Food Not Bombs, Homes Not Jails, the Green Party, the IWW, the Revolution!

--Joseph Braverman

Greetings co-Wobs,

I wonder if anyone out there can help me. Two of the Native Forest Network's corporate campaigns are against Hyundai South Korea (Siberian raw logs for Mitsubishi auto parts); and Hydro-Quebec (devastation of largest intact ecosystem in Eastern North America and genocide towards the indigenous people of that region plus international interests in Guyana, China, Haiti, etc.).

We have sketchy information concerning Hydro-Quebec's worker deaths and injuries during phase one of the James Bay Project. Additionally workers developed a high rate of

alcoholism and divorce while working on the project. Also there probably was a lot of sabotage during phase one by the workers. Where can we get more facts?

Concerning Hyundai--early this year there were massive slowdowns by Hyundai workers in South Korea and the corporation used severe repression against union organizers. Any additional facts or verification would be extremely helpful.

Solidarity,
Orin Langelle

Fellow Workers:

The journal *New Solutions* will be publishing a special issue featuring articles about worker health and safety training. Craig Slatin will be guest editor for this issue scheduled for release in September 1994. Solicited topics include:

- examples of participatory, worker-oriented, training programs
- evaluation of participatory, worker-oriented, training programs
- discussions of the political impact of worker health and safety training programs
- discussions of the political context of current health and safety training programs
- discussions of how empowerment

oriented, worker health and safety training programs are restricted by the current political landscape, and what potential these programs provide for political change

- discussions of pedagogy as applied to participatory, worker-oriented health and safety training programs
- the history of worker health and safety training
- discussions of programs addressing needs of workers with limited literacy
- discussions of programs designed to support minority and immigrant worker populations.

Manuscripts should be sent in any of the following formats:

- clearly printed/taped original copies
- on 3.5" or 5.25" floppy disks in either PC or MAC format; Microsoft Word or Word Perfect preferred
- via e-mail.

Papers must be submitted for peer review no later than March 1, 1994. Any communications regarding this should be directed to:

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1 University Ave.
Lowell, MA 01854

Tel: (508) 934 - 3291
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E-mail: slatin@woods.uml.edu
(mstein@igc.apc.org in igc:haz.forum)

IWW Industrial Union Directory

FOREST WORKERS IU 120

IU120 Aardvark Sawmill Co. -David Everest, PO Box 54
Balfour BC V0G 1C0 Canada. (604)229-4978

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IU 330

IU330 Custom Wood Screen Doors Artisan Shop-Paul Kay,
606 Alamo Pintado #3262, Solvang CA 93463. (805)688-0123

PRINT & PUBLISHING WORKERS IU 450

IU450 Blackbird Design Job Shop -394 Euclid Ave. #301,
Toronto ON M6G 2S9 Canada. (416)941-9945

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop -Delegate: Merll
Truesdale, 18 Bluff Rd., Columbia SC 29201

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WI 53703. (608)255-1800

IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop -1921 Ashby Ave. Berkeley
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IU450 P&L Printing Job Shop -2298 Clay, Denver CO 80211.
(303)433-1852

IU450 Street of Crocodiles Letter Press Job Shop PO Box
20610, Seattle WA 98102. (206)726-5924

FOOD WORKERS IU 460

IU460 Fairhaven Co-operative Flour Mill Job Shop 1115
Railroad Ave., Bellingham, WA 98225

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 500

Industrial Transportation Research & Organizing Project
Arthur J. Miller, PO Box 5464 Tacoma WA 98415-0464

MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS IU 510

IU510 West Coast MTW - Sea Dive Job Shop Delegate:
Colin Dewey 60 Walter St. San Francisco CA 94114

EDUCATION WORKERS IU 620

IU620 Education WOB (Workers Organizing Bulletin)
EWIU 620, PO Box 762, Cortland NY 13045

IU620 UC Berkeley Recyclers Job Branch
620 Eshleman, Berkeley CA 94720

ENTERTAINMENT WORKERS IU 630

IU630 General Organizing Committee Coordinator
Jim Barclay 75A Elm St., Worcester MA 01609

IU630 Boulevard Bingo Job Shop -Delegate: Tina Gaffney
(215)821-5622

IU630 Buskers Rag Newsletter PO Box 1400, Brewster MA
02631

IU630 The Living Theatre Job Shop -PO Box 20180, New
York NY 10009 - 8959. Tel: (212)865-3957 Fax: (212)865-3234

IU630 Musicians & Performing Artists Reference Library -

Worcester Public Library, Salem Square, Worcester MA 01608

IU630 SF Bay Area Jazz Musicians' Service Organization

(510)704-0234

IU630 Workers Stories & Workers Lives Job Shop

c/o SE Michigan GMB, 7252 Kendal, Dearborn MI 48126

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IU660 Time Tested Books Job Shop 1114 - 21st. Street,
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IU660 Wooden Shoe Books & Records Job Shop 112 S.
20th St. Philadelphia PA 19103. (215)569-2477

PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS IU 670

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Union, Ann Arbor MI 48109. (313)763-6876

IU670 Berkeley Recycling Center Job Shop
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IU670 Socialist Party USA Nat'l Office Job Shop 516 W. 25th
St. #404, New York NY 10001.(212)691-0776.

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industrial strength organizer



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Humor & Cartoons: Wage Slave World News Box 1217 Madison WI 53702

E-mail: huckkono@igc.apc.org

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Info: (415)863-WOBS.

IWW Directory

Job Shop: IWW organized workplace. GMB: General Membership Branch. IU: Industrial Union. Delegate: member who collects dues and signs up new members.

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES: Jura Books -110
Crystal St, Petersham, Sydney, NSW

Sydney Area Group -Del: Ray Elbourne,
Corner Dittons Ln. & Old Illawara Hwy,
Sutton Forest NSW 2577.

VICTORIA: Melbourne Area Group-POB
1738Q GPO Melbourne, 3001.

CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA: SE BC Group-
POB 54, Balfour, V0G 1C0. David Everest
604/229-4978

MANITOBA: Winnipeg GMB - B.
Mackay, PO Box 3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7

ONTARIO: Blackbird Design IU450 Job
Shop- 394 Euclid Ave #301, Toronto
M6G 2S9. 416/972-6293

Ottawa GMB-POB 4217 Stn E, K1S 5B2.
613/231-2922

Toronto Group-11 Andrews Ave M6J 1S2.
416/941-9945 Meetings 1st Thurs. of month
7 pm; phone for location.

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Leicester Del: F.Lee 22 Vicarage Lane
Belgrave, LE4 5PD. 053/366-1835

Swindon/Bristol/Oxford GMB Kevin
Brandstatter, 9 Omdurman St. Swindon,
Wilts SN2 1HA

York -Delegate: D.Czunys, 13
Wolsley, York YO15BQ.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Berkeley:

Berkeley Recycling Ctr IU670 Job Shop -
M. Carlstroem 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607

New Earth Press IU450 Job Shop-1921
Ashby Av. 94703. Dave Karoly (510)549-
0176.

UC Berkeley Recyclers IU620 Branch- 620
Eshleman, 94720. Del: Daniel Widener.

IWW Local 1/Mendocino-Humboldt GMB-
Delegates: Judi Bari, POB 656 Willits
95490 (msg:707/468-1660); Herb Jager 114
E. Laurel, Ft. Bragg 95437 (707/937-3457).

Los Angeles GMB- Del: Andrew Willett
1136 Arbor Dell Rd. 90041.

Sacramento- Time Tested Books IU660-
1114 21st St, 95814. 916/447-5696

San Diego Group - RMR Kroopkin, 2675
Fletcher Pkwy #211, El Cajon CA 92020.
619/460-2907

Santa Cruz GMB-PO Box 534, 95061.

San Francisco:

SF Bay Area GMB-1095 Market St. #204,
94103. 415/863-WOBS

West Coast Marine Transport Workers
IU510 Del: Colin Dewey 60 Walter St.,
94114. 415/864-6037.

COLORADO: Denver:

Denver/Boulder GMB-2412 E. Colfax,
80206. (303)388-1065 Office hrs Sat.9-12.
Meetings 1st Thur.@month 7 pm Del:Cliff
Sundstrom, 910 E 8th Ave #202, 80218.

(303)832-7602. Brendan Ruiz, PO Box
370663, 80237-0663.

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#1103, Miami Beach 33139

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Pl, 30307. 404/524-1243

HAWAII: O'ahu Group: PO Box 11928
Honolulu HI 96822

IDAHO: Boise Group-W.Cohan, PO Box
822, Caldwell ID 83606.

ILLINOIS: Chicago GMB -New World
Resource Ctr 1476 Irving Park, 60613.
312/549-5045. Meetings, 1st Friday 7:30 pm.

LOUISIANA: Baton Rouge Group- Del:
Steve Donahue 729 Bungalow Lane
70802. (504)389-9572.

MARYLAND: Baltimore GMB -R.Bey,
Black Shield, Box 1681, Glen Burnie
21060. 301/367-3024

MICHIGAN: Ann Arbor Tenants Union
IU670 Job Shop- 4001 Michigan Union,
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MISSISSIPPI: Gulfport Group-
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(516/586-2103); Rochelle Semel, RD 1
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10001. 212/691-0776

PENNSYLVANIA: Lancaster Group-PO
Box 2084, 17608

Boulevard Bingo IU630 Job Shop-Tina
Gaffney 215/821-5622.

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Philadelphia GMB- 4722 Baltimore Ave.
19143. (215)747-0855.

Temple University IWW Group-2106 N.
Broad St. 19122. Contact: Anthony
Newkirk (215)765-3511.

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WASHINGTON: Tacoma- Industrial
Transportation Research & Organizing -
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Street of Crocodiles Letter Press IU450
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WEST VIRGINIA: Del: Rick Wilson, 1019
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Around this

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- * environmentally friendly
- * equal rights

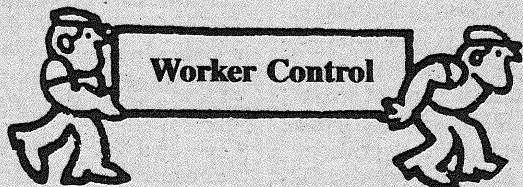
Industrial Union

A lot of activities and new organizing efforts are happening around the IWW. Hawai'i Wobblies are now called the O'ahu IWW Group, see Directory page 2 for address. The O'ahu group can also be communicated with by Electronic Mail at <annies@igc.apc.org>.

O'ahu IWW Group has produced an excellent 11x17 brochure introducing and explaining the IWW. They have used this brochure to support a symphony musicians' strike, in solidarity work with Hawai'i native rights, PVH boycott, and promoting the film *Manufacturing Consent*.

Joe Hill was commemorated Nov. 19 on Vancouver Island, in a large gathering of forest activists. The musical Wobbly responsible has now returned to Ottawa, where he is doing public education on the west coast rainforest destruction. He reports that Vancouver Island is divided and dangerous, with loggers being incited by their bosses to use violence against environmentalists, the newspapers and media controlled by the companies will not report the facts, and police don't bother showing up to protect forest activists from redneck violence in remote locations. The local member meet a number of Wobblies active in Van.Is. forest struggles, who have allowed their contact with the Union to lapse. We hope to be hearing from these Defenders of Mother Earth, for they deserve recognition in Forest Workers Industrial Union #120.

Seattle's Industrial-Environmental Toxicology Project is gathering momentum rapidly. Project Director Stan Anderson reports numbers of Wobblies from around North America have joined the team, and invites others to combine their efforts with this important initiative. Get in touch with



Capital District Wobs Question NAFTA Whitewash -- Honor Joe Hill

The growing Capital District (upstate New York) IWW Group has completed its first year of labor activism. On the heels of rallies and picket lines on May Day for NLRB & labor law reform and in support of UE insurgents in Watervliet, NY; IWW members joined an AFL-CIO anti-NAFTA press conference in mid October. And Nov. 19, they marked Joe Hill's execution with songs and speeches of working class solidarity.

FWs Dave Oliver and Greg Giorgio decided to be "reporters" as local congressional representatives and AFL-CIO officials gathered to give local press their views on the nefarious NAFTA. Gerald Solomon (R-Queensbury) and Michael McNulty (D-Green Island), stated their views while local unionists framed the backdrop of an empty Ford plant with their banners.

The congressmen were firm in opposition to NAFTA, as it regarded protecting local jobs. Too bad they weren't so steadfast when Ford pulled out of Green Island and moved much of its operation to Mexico, where slave labor is the rule and a union card is bad for your lifespan. McNulty was perhaps a little less firm in his resolve, calling for a renegotiation of NAFTA to ensure certain protections for the environment and USA jobs.

"Not this NAFTA," McNulty and NY AFL-CIO President Ed Cleary told the cameras, already willing to

the project for information and updates about anti-toxics organizing in your own community. An international Day of Action on chemically-related illness, is being discussed for early 1994. Keep in touch to find out the date. The time is right to confront toxic chemicals in the workplace. Only the workers are in a position to control poisons where they start!

Preamble to the IWW Constitution

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all. Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

compromise for the interest of global capitalists.

Local press was pathetic at best. One young reporter was more interested about NAFTA's negative impact on Canadian jobs -- a little late there, eh Jimmy Olsen?

Some other correspondents asked no questions and thumbed the AFL-CIO "party line" press release. The hard questions were asked by Wobbly reporters. Clearly acted a little miffed when asked to espouse upon NAFTA provisions that will erode transportation safety regulations, and about "reciprocal" licensing for Mexican workers wishing to emigrate northward.

IWW organizer and songwriter Joe Hill was the inspiration for a November rally and "coming out" for Capital District Wobs in Troy's Riverfront Park. Local musicians Terry Phelan and the Harmonious Hogchokers sang Joe Hill songs while Wobs spoke of challenges in present and future workplaces.

Keith Eveleth, local UE organizer, voiced concerns about "Reichian" team concepts in the workplace, and FW John Pagoda put working people's causes in perspective. He then laid a red carnation at the base of a bust of the late IWW organizer James Connolly (the expatriate IRA member who eventually settled in Troy, NY).

--Greg Giorgio & Dave Oliver

Wobblies Speak at Environmental Racism & Justice Conference

Wobblies had an opportunity to further develop understanding about workers and the environment, at the Environmental Racism and Justice Conference held at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Oct. 1-3.

IWW member Brendan Ruiz laid out in detail the practical and theoretical reasons for worker control of industry, and the impact of worker control on environmental concerns. FW Ruiz emphasized:

1. Workers left to our own devices and taking into account the needs of our own communities, inevitably manage the environment responsibly, as opposed to the capitalist ledger-style approach.
2. The IWW with its concern for working people's interests across trade, national, racial and sexual lines, represents a model for global development of a worker-safe, universally healthy environment.

Other panelists included a progressive workers' compensation attorney, the president of a refinery workers' local of Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW), and ex-IWW member Gary Cox.

In a hard hitting address, Cox told the audience that at the level of community responsibility no group outpaces the working class, and that given appropriate respect workers will play a lead role in environmental struggles.

Too often however, environmental activists are condescending to workers, do not view themselves as workers, or bypass workers' concerns at the community or workplace level, in favor of dealing with union bureaucrats. Only when such elitism is overcome can activists and workers join to clean up the environment and secure the economic and human needs of people.

Both Ruiz and Cox insisted that the key to environmental responsibility lies with a grassroots working class approach that involves workers as active participants to defend production and the community.

The Conference was sponsored by the Colorado University Environmental Center, the Black Student Alliance, Progressive Student Network and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. --X333295

Abolish Wage Slavery



Build Industrial Unions

Winnipeg News

November 1, 1993: A couple of elections and a national referendum ago, some Winnipeg Wobblies began the "Rocky Refusenik" campaign. Rocky, whose persona is adopted as a personal identity by anyone, promotes a "Don't Vote -- Be Counted!" platform. Provincially, in Manitoba we are awarded the "right" to decline our ballots at the polling station. Federally, Refuseniks must spoil their ballots to be counted. Fortunately the Feds allow an extra ballot to those who make a mistake, so conscientious objectors can spoil 2 ballots. In the recent October 25 federal election, some people wrote in their own candidate such as Emma Goldman.

In the Spring of 93, Rocky Refuseniks created several large Power Junkie Puppets to lead the MayDay Parade. Winnipeg police reluctantly escorted the 12-foot high effigies of Uncle Sam, Robo-Cop, Grim Capitalist Reaper, Blithering Politician and hundreds of marchers along the main streets. Three new Puppets appeared during the Autumn election campaign representing Canada, the US, and Mexico NAFTA partners. The trio attended public and private functions and paraded the main thoroughfares handing out anti-NAFTA information and "Spoil Your Ballot" leaflets.

Public reaction to the campaign has been varied. Many people, while agreeing as to the destructive nature of the system, felt that denying their votes left them powerless. Others were convinced that their votes for the least of the evils would collectively water down the system enough that they could live with it -- hence the new Liberal government. The media, however, seeing the Refuseniks as a humorous fringe group, have publicized Rocky's ideas. In a recent newspaper article, a reporter inadvertently instructed readers step by step how to spoil their ballots. Publicity has spurred hate mail and vandalism but hey, they're paying attention. --Rocky X341762

IWW Presence at Kinkkonen Memorial

The IWW was represented at a memorial ceremony honoring Olli Kinkkonen, a working class victim of a lynch mob during the World War I period of jingoistic hysteria. The memorial was held at Park Hill Cemetery in Duluth Minnesota on October 22.

Kinkkonen, a Finnish immigrant logger, had been snatched up from his bunk in a Duluth boarding house on the night of Sept. 19, 1918. He was tarred and feathered, then lynched by a mob of unidentified vigilantes. Though he had no known organizational affiliations, Kinkkonen was victimized along with many radicals, including Wobblies, caught up in wartime oppression by super-patriots against radicals and labor activists, the foreign-born, and those who opposed the war.

75 years later, Duluth's labor, peace and Finnish communities joined to raise funds for a memorial marker. Chief organizer was the Tyomies (Worker) Society, a leftwing Finnish-American publishing house in Superior, Wisconsin.

The October ceremony received considerable press and television coverage. Included in the memorial program were greetings from the IWW, read by Duluth delegate Jack Rosenquist. The message written by IWW General Secretary-Treasurer Harry Siitonen compared Kinkkonen's murder to the racist and xenophobic violence of our own times, the product of the insecurities of a capitalist system in deterioration and decline.

A private donation in the name of the IWW helped fund the marker.

To this day, the official coroner's report lists Kinkkonen's hanging as "suicide" (after the tar and feathering!) The lynching spirit did not end in 1918 in Duluth. 2 black men met the same fate in 1920. This latter travesty, however, was officially acknowledged by the city as a "lynching."

The inscription on the new marker reads:

OLLI KINKKONEN
1881 - 1918
Victim of Warmongers

--x324965



Solidarity
Forever

International Notes

*A little SOLIDARITY goes a long way!
Support fellow workers around the world!*

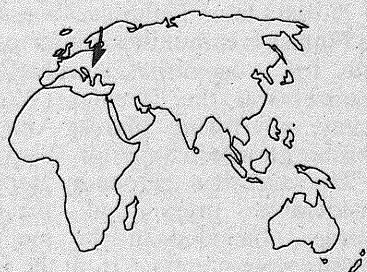
Guatemala Maquila Unions Recognized

The threat of losing duty-free access to U.S. markets has again prompted a last-minute response from Guatemala's government. In testimony at the Nov.3 Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) hearings in Washington, DC, the Guatemalan government stated it had recognized 3 new maquila unions, as well as the Coca-Cola union in Puerto Barrios.

The union recognitions came just before the Nov.3 hearings and just after a series of grassroots demonstrations on Oct.20 outside the Guatemalan embassy at Washington, and consulates at Chicago and Houston. The primary demands of the demonstrations were government recognition of union applications filed by maquila workers and the Coca-Cola workers and enforcement of the agricultural minimum wage.

The 3 new maquila unions are at Confecciones Unidas (CU), Cortex and MJ Modas clothing plants. Another application by maquila workers, at the Marissa plant, remains pending. There is no evidence that there has been any additional compliance with the minimum wage in the countryside.

Approval of these new applications brings to 5 the total number of maquila factories with legally recognized unions. A little over a year ago, only one existed, at INEXPORT, and its workers had been illegally fired. INEXPORT workers returned to work in July 1992, the Phillips-Van Heusen union was recognized in September 1992, the CU workers, who had also been illegally fired, were reinstated in August 1993 and now another 3 maquila unions have been recognized. While establishment of the 5 unions is a significant advance, overall conditions in the maquila sector remain poor, with abuse common, workplaces unsafe, wages well below the poverty line, and activists subject to violent intimidation. And none of these 5 unions currently has a contract.



81 Chinese Workers Burned to Death

81 workers at a doll factory in the Shenzhen Free Trade Zone (17 miles from the Hong Kong border) burned to death in a fire Nov.19. 31 others were hospitalized for injuries. According to Reuters, "During the fire, most of the doors and windows were locked to keep people inside the factory during working hours."

The factory was a Chinese-Hong Kong joint venture, one of thousands owned between present and ex-Chinese bureaucrats and their children with international capital from Hong Kong, Japan, Europe and the United States.

Shenzhen Free Trade Zone has suffered several industrial "accidents" in recent years, and a series of explosions. An explosion at a depot for dangerous goods in August killed at least 15 people and injured 200. In these virtual slave trade zones, independent union organizing is outlawed.

This has led to tremendous economic expansion fueled by massive international capital. Kwang Chow (Canton) province is now the fastest growing area in the world. Last year it grew at the rate of 29.8%, and the numbers of industrial deaths and injuries have skyrocketed as well.

Haiti Unionists

The 22,000 member Sentral Jeneral Travaye (CGT) is a Haitian trade-union federation formed in 1990. During the time of the Aristide government, unions for the first time were able to organize, and mounted a struggle to raise the minimum wage.

Since the coup, unions in Haiti function under extremely brutal conditions. Meetings, collecting dues, and other basics of organization must all be done clandestinely. Over 300 CGT leaders are currently in hiding.

Cajuste Lexius, CGT general secretary came to the U.S. in early October and has been unable to return to Haiti. Lexius relates that on April 23, as president of the Public Transportation Union, on the way to a radio station he was kidnapped, beaten and tortured. An international campaign won his release in May. At a Boston meeting Nov.27, Lexius urged workers to spread the message of the plight of unions in Haiti by organizing support meetings, writing newsletter articles, and collecting urgently needed funds. (nyt)

African Workers Fighting for Lives

Workers are raising hell all over Africa, demanding that their unions adopt a more militant response to government austerity plans adopted at the behest of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

In West Africa, the pro-government Conseil National des Travailleurs du Senegal is protesting across-the-board 15% pay cuts for government workers, among other austerity measures.

Last month Nigerian workers successfully staged a week-long strike, forcing the new military government to cut by almost 50% fuel price increases announced a week earlier.

Cameroonian teachers managed this month to get control of the English Examinations Board after a 3-month class boycott which left final examinations unmarked. And on Dec. 1 government workers began a 3-day strike to protest government plans to slash their salaries by from 12 to 50 percent after six years of frozen wages.

In East Africa, Tanzanian teachers forced the government to address their grievances, including demands for 3,000% salary increases and other allowances.

And Kenyan unions are trying to cut the umbilical cord traditionally tying them to the government. The Central Organization of Trade Unions was until recently affiliated to the ruling party, but last May COTU called its first strike: a 2-day strike that paralyzed transport in Nairobi and other major towns, despite tough anti-strike laws.

In November, Mozambique's teachers, railway and factory workers downed tools in wildcat strikes. Malawi tea estate and government workers won hefty wage increases after Malawi's first strike since independence 30 years ago.

Russian Workers Still Fighting

A series of strikes by coal and gas workers forced the Yelstin government to agree to pay back wages and make other concessions on the eve of the country's "elections."

More than 30,000 coal miners staged a one-day strike Nov.11, completely halting production in the Vorkuta region, one of Russia's main coal-producing areas. A week-long stoppage scheduled to begin Dec.1 to demand payment of overdue wages, an end to the threat of lay-offs and state support for industry restructuring was called off after last-minute negotiations.

Russian miners have lost much of their bargaining power since the 1989

Is The Shirt On Your Back Worth the Price?

Next time you go to JC Penney's, K-Mart, or Wal-Mart, and you're looking in the shirt aisle, stop for a moment -- look at the label, and ask yourself: "Where was this made, and by whom?"

If "Guatemala" comes to mind, PUT IT BACK, and urge others to do the same!

There are, as of this writing, 350 factories (read: sweatshops) producing clothing for US brand-name companies. In addition to the names mentioned above, these factories also supply Van Heusen and Gitano.

It certainly bears repeating that Guatemala is the worst violator of Human Rights in the Americas, a place where child labor and slave conditions are everyday facts of life. In the garment factories, which employ over 70,000 workers, most of whom are women, conditions are horrendous. In addition to a wage system that would do justice to medieval Europe, workers are constantly subjected to verbal/physical harassment, including sexual abuse; extreme sub-standard living conditions in shack-towns; dangerous health hazards and inadequate health care.

Although some progress has been made (at Phillips-Van Heusen), most workers are unorganized, and those who have attempted organization in many

cases have been assaulted and often threatened with death. Meanwhile, the Guatemalan government has turned its back on them, doing nothing. (*A point about Phillips-Van Heusen: Although wages have increased 50% last year as a result of the union organizing and working conditions have improved somewhat, workers at PVH still live in abject poverty. Many live in 12'X18' houses with no indoor plumbing, dirt floors, near open drainage ditches.)

US/GLEP, (US/Guatemala Labor Education Project), is an independent educational organization made up of Human Rights, Trade Union, and other groups. For more information, write:

US/GLEP
c/o ACTWU-Chicago Joint Board
333 S. Ashland Ave.
Chicago IL 60607

Meanwhile, by one of the simplest forms of Direct Action, the ol' BOYCOTT, we can send a strong word to those companies involved in the indignity and abasement--STOP! DIGNITY AND DECENCY FOR ALL WORKERS NOW!!

--Dave Collins X340864

coal strike that brought the government to its knees. Industrial production is barely half its volume in 1989, and even with falling coal output, weak demand has meant that coal is in oversupply.

Coal prices have risen sharply since the government slashed subsidies to the industry and lifted price controls. In response many consumers either slashed their orders or simply stopped paying for them. Squeezed between rising costs and a mountain of bad debts, coal enterprises failed for months on end to pay their employees' wages.

In the Nady region of north-western Siberia, a 9-day strike by workers in the natural gas industry ended Dec.1 when the state-owned gas firm Gazprom agreed to demands including prompt payment of wage arrears dating back as much as six months. Management also promised to resettle redundant workers in south central Russia.

The gas industry, too, is in a state of crisis. Debts to the industry have reached the astronomical sum of three trillion rubles (about US\$2.4 billion); the worst non-payers include the governments of Russia and other CIS states. In the Nady region, which produces 30% of Russia's natural gas, many workers have not received their wages in full since May. After being attracted to this cold, isolated territory by the promise of high pay, they have been left in semi-starvation on tiny advances of as little as US\$30 a month.

On Nov.22, workers in a total of 44 Nady enterprises, mostly in construction and transport, went out on an indefinite strike. After a week the number of enterprises had risen to 72, and the total number of strikers to 25,000. Gas well and pipeline maintenance workers did not join the stoppage, but made it clear that if strikers' demands were not met, gas supplies to central Russia would be shut off.

In the city of Nady, the strike committee took over many functions of the local administration. Detachments of unionists guarded important installations and helped police patrol the streets. Improbably in this hard-drinking region, a ban on alcohol sales was imposed and made to stick.

Every day, pickets assembled outside the mayor's office. On Nov.27, as many as a third of the city's population of 50,000 people gathered in arctic temperatures to support the strikers' demands. After negotiations resumed Nov.30, the government quickly conceded every point of the workers' demands. Money would be made available within three days to pay all wages owing; moreover, the unpaid wages would be indexed for inflation. Within ten days, further sums would be forwarded to cover all debts to

contracting organizations. Thousands of apartments would be built in central Russia to house former gas workers.

On Dec.2 the Nady city strike committee voted to return to work. The pro-government *Izvestiya* was left to lament: "There is a danger that this precedent of unconditionally satisfying all demands may inspire neighboring regions to take similar measures."

--excerpted from reports by Renfrey Clarke

Solidarity is Illegal

Despite the globalization of economy, the government and corporations still seek to box labor in from building international labor solidarity. The National Labor Relations Board ruled December 1 that U.S. unions cannot ask foreign labor organizations to boycott products shipped overseas by companies involved in labor disputes.

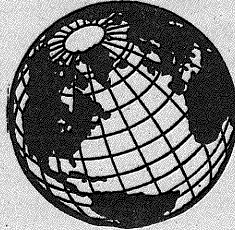
The case involved a 1990 dispute that the International Longshoremen's Association had with Coastal Stevedoring Co. and Port Canaveral Stevedoring Co. -- 2 Florida companies that load ships carrying citrus products to Japan.

General Strike Shuts Belgium

A massive nation-wide strike of public sector workers brought Belgium to a virtual standstill Nov.26, as unions protested government austerity plans to reduce the social-security budget deficit. It was the biggest strike action since 1936, which was the last time that unions in Belgium's 2 linguistically divided regions of Wallonia and Flanders took joint action.

The social-security budget is expected to show a deficit of \$2 billion next year, while unemployment has soared to an official 9.5%. The government is responding with an austerity package including tax increases, cuts in government spending and a 3-year wage freeze.

Workers charge that the austerity package will mostly affect the poor, and insist that it is the rich who should have to pay higher taxes. Unions plan to take further action during the coming weeks to drive this point home. They scheduled a one-day nation-wide strike for Dec.11, the day of the European Community summit, when heads of state and ministers from the other 11 EC countries will come to Belgium.



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International
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Photo: Langelle/NFN

ACTIVISTS INVADE SENATOR'S OFFICE

Immediately following the largest gathering of temperate forest defenders (over 300) in North America at the First North American Temperate Forest Conference held mid-November in Burlington, VT, over 40 activists entered Senator Patrick Leahy's Burlington office to clearly voice three important issues. Senator Leahy was elsewhere and we had to settle for a captive aide.

The first issue was our overwhelming NO to NAFTA from the grassroots environmental movement. Anti-working class Senator Leahy endorsed NAFTA only days before and subsequently voted for the trade agreement in the Senate a couple of days after our visit.

The second issue we focused on was compromise Option Nine. In a newsletter to his constituents, Leahy praised Clinton's plan and stated that this is "the first real effort to solve an issue that has become a classic jobs versus environment confrontation..." NFN spokespeople, in no uncertain terms, told Leahy's aide the folly of the compromise and linked the ramifications of NAFTA to Option Nine.

Any further cutting of the last remaining (under 10%) of the Ancient Forests would not only be unethical but also immoral. And where would the dead carcasses of the forest go? Under NAFTA who even knows who would mill the trees. Clinton and Leahy really don't give a shit about the forests, workers or a sense of community. The bottom line being

there are no jobs on a dead planet.

Finally, because Leahy is on the Judiciary Committee, various activists confronted the aide on harassment and violence toward our nonviolent movement. To the Wobs present this was nothing new. From lynchings to fileted penuses to pipe bombs metted out by the corporate industrial state and its lackeys, we have seen the ugly side of class war. To us the violence even reaches deeper. My father was murdered by the factory owners and bosses so they could make a buck while they forced the workers in his section of the plant to be exposed to PCB's. Business as usual. To us Wobs we will never sleep or forget. In a poignant moment, outspoken pagan and Earth activist Michaela Oleson, whose house was torched suspiciously the night before, burst into tears and demanded a full scale investigation concerning the possible arson attack.

We made our point, got major tv coverage that night in Vermont, and left peacefully knowing full well that politicians are just the puppets of the new world order and that state fortified "democracy" is no more than \$ signs, TV brainwashing, corporate press and a belief in Santa Claus. There will be no environmental or social justice until there is a new world disorder that breaks the chains that bind us. Don't mourn, Organize!

— Orin Langelle

VICTIMS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE SPEAK OUT!

Following the NFN's First North American Temperate Forest Conference in Burlington, VT, about 40 activists invaded Senator Patrick Leahy's office in Burlington. Pictured here are activists who have suffered violent attacks. Left to right: Darryl Cherney, IWW-EFI, (he and Judi Bari survived a 1990 assassination attempt when Bari's car was pipe bombed due to their work on environmental-worker alliances and Redwood Summer) Michaela (crying) and Maya Oleson (Michaela's and Maya's house was burned down suspiciously the night before. Oleson is an outspoken pagan and Earth activist who was on the NFN's Conference Committee), and Steve Taylor, IWW, (Taylor's family house was bombed in Missouri in 1970 because his father was involved in the protection of endangered rivers). Senator Leahy is on the Judiciary Committee.

Temperate Forest Conference

Fires of Activism Lit

Environmental activists from around the globe gathered at the University of Vermont this November. Representatives from Australia, Scotland, England, Canada, the US and a multitude of indigenous groups convened to share strategies, concerns and campaigns within the environmental movement. Direct action was strongly represented as co-ordinators from such current campaigns as Clayoquot Sound, Cove Mallard and Protectors of Mother Earth's continuing armed standoff with the Canadian government in Northern Saskatchewan, attended the conference.

The conference featured both renowned scientist Dr. David Suzuki and Anishanabe activist Winona LaDuke as keynote speakers. Prominently represented were the Rain Forest Action Network, Earth First!, Save Americas' Forest along with the Industrial Workers of the World. Dialogue assumed a strong anti-corporate bias as the destruction of bio-regions and their people by renegade multi-national corporations framed the overall tone of the gathering.

Mitsubishi, Weyerhaeuser, along with Hyundai were targeted for their plans to destroy the Taiga forest in Siberia. Actual and proposed destruction of great tracts of land and indigenous cultures was also a key issue. "North American consumers can greatly influence these multi-national companies," said Jake Kreilick. Kreilick was one of the North American representatives at the NFN's inaugural conference and strategy sessions in Tasmania last year.

"By discovering common enemies we often find our strongest allies," stated Orin Langelle convener of this years assembly and participant in last years inaugural conference. Orin emphasized the importance of indigenous involvement in the environmental-social justice movement. Speaking of revolutionary ecology, Orin stated that "Our philosophy as to ecology, the planet and our over-consumptive society tends to be very compatible (with that of indigenous people). We have a lot to learn from them," he added taking note of their often decentralized, anarchistic, Earth centered cultures. The NFN has adopted a decentralized structure as a global autonomous collective of forest activists, conservation biologists and non-governmental organizations. Functioning on a consensus basis, the NFN also strives to be non-hierarchical, non-patriarchal as well as non-classist, not discriminating on grounds of race, culture or species.

Representation from indigenous groups included Great Whale Cree, Protectors of Mother Earth, the Abenaki on whose land the conference was held, Jules Bacon a traditional chief of the Inuit, coalition of the Natassinan, along with Mohawk and Lil Wat participation.

On November 14th Earth First!er Darryl Cherney held a workshop entitled "corporate and governmental destabilization campaigns against the environmental movement." Focusing on organized attacks toward environmentalists, the discussion emphasized the work of the Wise Use movement and its corporate and governmental affiliations. "It has gotten to the point that a house burning is expected or even accepted as part of being an activist," Cherney observed at one point in his presentation.

Coincidence turned veritably eerie as on the morning of the fifteenth an organizer at the Burlington NFN office was informed that her home had been destroyed by fire under mysterious circumstances. An outspoken activist in the community, she had felt it necessary to leave her home two months prior due to threatening circumstances.

At the following three day strategy meeting details of the brass tacks networking were slowly hammered out. Bonds were strengthened nightly around the campfire. There is power in a union, sang Robert Hoyt on the night of the anniversary of Joe Hill's execution. Accompanied by guitar, voices hopeful and empowered joined in, as faces pensively stared into the fire.

— Steve Taylor
IWW & Big River EF!

Ecology, Class & Race

I attended the first North American conference of the Native Forests Network held on Abenaki land (Burlington, Vermont) in November. This extraordinarily well put together conference brought together a range of environmentalists active in struggles to protect temperate forests. David Orton, from Green Web in Nova Scotia, said later it was the first environmental conference he'd attended where his up-front advocacy of socialism did not get him ostracized. The IWW's anti-capitalist message was singled out as a welcome contribution by NFN representatives and others.

The presence of Native Americans from many places was welcome. The major address was delivered by Winona LaDuke an Anishanabe from Minnesota. LaDuke said indigenous culture is inherently different from capitalism and development culture. Earth based cultures see people as part of the environment, take no more than is needed and leave the rest. She demands we understand that survival

depends on these indigenous values replacing capitalist consumption. LaDuke gave a blistering denunciation of capitalism and says the progressive movements need to support treaty demands.

Presenting a short talk on Saturday morning I said pointed out the role of capitalism as a source of ecological problems and noted that working people (after all, that's who the ecologists are too) are allies in the environmental struggle against the system. What follows expands on those comments.

RACE & CLASS

A 1990 study of the toxic geography of the Detroit area by Bunyan Bryant and Paul Mohai found that class is absolutely an indicator of where toxics are. Poor people live downwind, the rich live up-stream. Working folks face toxics at work. Rich people don't.

More than class, they found that race is an indicator of where development poisons people. This is true in the African

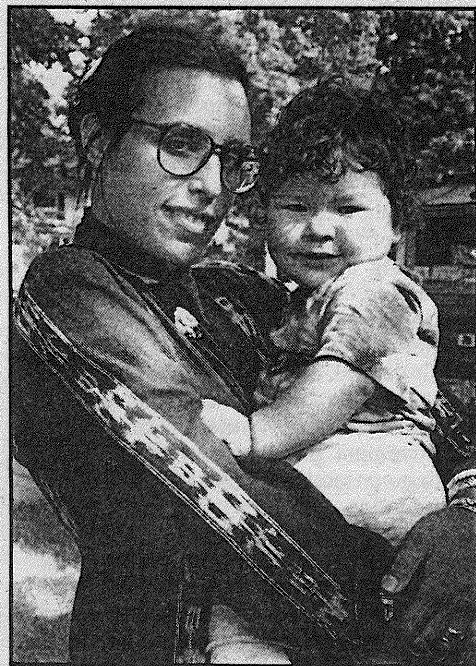
American industrial urban centers of the US, on the radioactive reservation land of Native Americans, and in the wilderness of Quebec where the mega-project Hydro Quebec is destroying Cree land.

Race and class are environmentalist issues. The growing, environmental justice movement among so-called "minority" communities attests to that fact. Environmentalists who choose to ignore this cut themselves off from strong allies.

CLASS ENEMIES

Every NFN conference report of local organizing was about fighting corporate criminals who are slaughtering the temperate forests. The enemies of the environment are the enemies of the working class.

The environmental movement too often looks at working people — loggers, miners, auto workers — and lays blame. "If only," dream environmentalists, "workers would stop doing these jobs there would not be environmental damage."



Winona LaDuke

These people with workgloves, tools and hardhats must be the enemy."

Loggers, miners and auto workers do not create the local and international economies within which we must sell our labor.

— continued on page 8 —

The following is from a new book by David F. Noble called *Progress Without People: In Defense of Luddism*. It is available from Kerr Publishing (1740 W. Greenleaf Chicago IL 60626) write for catalog. Or IWW Lit © 1993 Kerr Publishing

There is a war on, but only one side is armed: this is the essence of the technology question today. On the one side is private capital, scientized and subsidized, mobile and global, and now heavily armed with military spawned command, control and communication technologies. Empowered by the second Industrial Revolution, capital is moving decisively now to enlarge and to consolidate the social dominance it secured in the first. In the face of a steadily declining rate of profit, escalating conflict, and intensifying competition, those who already hold the world hostage to their narrow interests are undertaking once again to restructure the international economy and the patterns of production to their advantage. Thus, with the new technology as a weapon, they steadily advance upon all remaining vestiges of worker autonomy, skill, organization, and power in the quest for more potent vehicles of investment and exploitation. And, with the new technology as their symbol, they launch a multi-media cultural offensive designed to rekindle confidence in "progress." As their extortionist tactics daily diminish the wealth of nations, they announce anew the optimistic promises of technological deliverance and salvation through science.

During the first Industrial Revolution the weavers recognized that so-called economic viability, the presumed reason for introducing a new technology, was not in reality an economic category but a political and cultural one. Capital invested in machines that would reinforce the system of domination, and this decision to invest, which might in the long run render the chosen technique economical, was not itself an economic decision but a political one, with cultural sanction. Other technologies, equally uneconomic but preferable for other reasons, might have been chosen for further investment and perhaps in the long run have been rendered economic.

In short, the weavers raised "a powerful and impressive critique of machinery, a critique that carried a genuine belief that technical change was not a 'given' but could be tempered and directed to match the requirements of social ideals." They "consistently drew attention to piece-rates, home competition, and the specific technical and market conditions for the introduction of power looms." Above all, and again consistently, they demanded a social policy on technology.

Central to their effort was a strategy of highly organized direct action, the machine breaking for which they are still remembered today. Between 1811 and 1812, for example, manufacturing workers marching under the banner of the mythical Ned Ludd destroyed over one thousand mills in the Nottingham area. A decade later the machine breaking spread across the midlands and, as Pierre Dubois, a historian of industrial sabotage, has described the experience, "in some cases, it had a definitely revolutionary character, involving a confrontation between two armed forces."

Machine breaking was never the whole of the movement but it was certainly central, and the success of the strategy is apparent. Rather than isolated acts of resistance soon forgotten, there emerged a movement of great proportions with lasting consequences that is still remembered today.

But the way we evaluate Luddism today has not been shaped by the Luddites themselves. Instead we have integrated the views of those who opposed machine breaking and who succeeded in removing the technology question from the point of production, from the workers themselves, from the present that was the first Industrial Revolution. In the place of that traumatic reality, the constructed technological myths about the power of the past and the promise of the future. And in the light of these myths the courageous Luddites were made to seem mistaken, pathetic, dangerous, and insane.

David F. Noble

Another Look at Progress: In Defense of Luddism

Labor's response to the first Industrial Revolution set a pattern that was repeated in the wake of the second. Once again it was the workers immediately affected by the changes who first sounded the alarm, described the dangers, and undertook direct means to try to slow the assault on their jobs and lives. And once again the issue of technological change was expropriated from the workers by those who spoke for them. The issue was removed from the point of production to executive offices and research centers, where it was fitted into ideological and political agendas of future progress. The result was a loss not just of an understanding of the reality confronting workers but of a strategy for dealing with it – in the present.

What mechanization was to the first Industrial Revolution, automation was to the second. The roots of the second Industrial Revolution lay in the state-sponsored technological developments of World War II. Military technologies – control systems for automatic gunfire, computers for ballistics and A-bomb calculations, microelectronics for proximity fuses, radar, computers, aircraft and missile guidance systems, and a host of sensing and measuring devices – gave rise to not only programmable machinery but also "intelligent" or self-correcting machinery. In the postwar years, the promotion of such technologies was fueled by Cold War concerns about "national security," the enthusiasm of technical people, management's quest for a solution to its growing labor problems, and by a general cultural offensive to restore confidence in

The biggest issue really comes down to what we working people are going to accept as progress

scientific salvation and technological deliverance following the twin traumas of depression and global war. Often with state initiative and subsidy, industrial application of these new technologies (as well as an intensification of older forms of fixed automation and mechanization) began to take hold, in steel, auto, petroleum refining, chemical processing (and uranium enrichment), and aircraft, machinery, and electrical equipment manufacture, among others.

The threat to established work rules, working conditions, and job security posed by the introduction of such technological changes sparked strikes, sporadic sabotage, and, during the late 1950s and early 1960s, a wide-ranging debate about the social implications of automation. The trials of the longshoremen facing containerization, the printers facing typesetting and computers, and refinery workers confronting computer-based centralized process-control were the focus of attention. Despite the efforts of rank-and-file workers in these industries to prevent or at least slow down the introduction of these technologies (which had been designed, in part, to reduce their power as well as numbers) through the use of strikes and other forms of direct action (as well as demands for veto power over the decision to introduce the new systems, as proposed by the printers), their unions uniformly bowed to the hegemonic ideology of progress. Denying steadfastly that they were against technology, union leaders strove to avoid media charges of Luddism and either conceded the futility of opposition and yielded, or endorsed the notion that such technological changes were the surest route to prosperity.

Meanwhile, union leaders used the same charges of Luddism against more

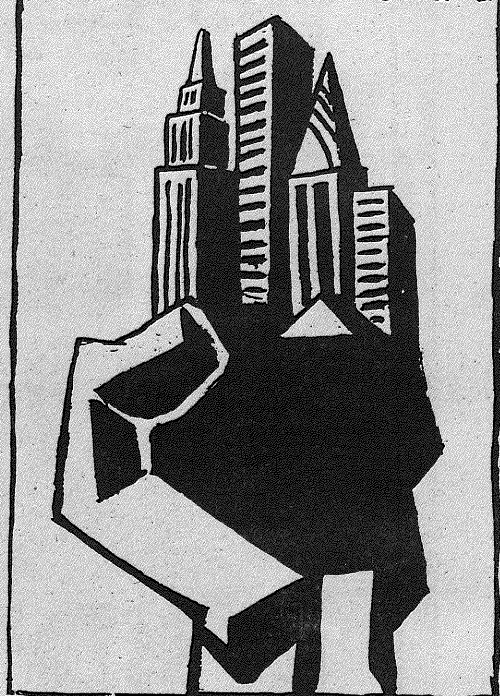
militant union members who refused to comply. While some unions did succeed in gaining a measure of compensation and job protection for some of their members, they all yielded completely – over significant rank-and-file protest – to management's exclusive right to decide on new technology.

Workers such as the teamsters, post office and telephone workers, coal miners, and steelworkers resorted to slowdowns, absenteeism, wildcat strikes and other means of direct struggle, to the extent that *Fortune* had to alert its readers that management was "dealing with a workforce ... no longer under union discipline." In addition to these traditional forms of protest, there arose new forms of direct action, shopfloor organization, counter-planning strategies against management, rank-and-file caucuses against union leadership, and systematic sabotage. In one automobile engine plant in Detroit, for example, on worker observed "plant-wide rotating sabotage programs": workers took turns sabotaging the production process, routinely producing damaged or defectively assembled products until reject rates of 75 percent forced unscheduled shutdowns of the entire plant. "The biggest issue really comes down to what we working people are going to accept as 'progress,'" declared a leaflet put out by the Longshoremen of San Francisco during their strike of 1971. "We, like many other workers, are faced with a technological revolution of new 'labor saving' devices and methods of operation. This is what our employer means by 'progress.' But, if this 'progress' is left unchecked it will simply mean that our employer will line up at the bank with ever bigger profits, while we line up at the unemployment and welfare office. It is essential for labor," these workers insisted, in defiance of both management and their own International, "to challenge the notion that the employer – in the name of 'progress' – can simply go ahead and slash his workforce or close his factory or, as is being planned in our industry, close an entire port, and to do this without any regard for the people and community involved."

This upsurge in rank-and-file direct action was symbolized by the wildcat strikes and creative sabotage of production at Lordstown, General Motors's most automated assembly plant. There workers openly defied the new production system, and their actions, according to Pierre Dubois, "freed (them) from inhibitions and their fear of management." In addition, it liberated them from traditional taboos and the mindset of technological determinism. In their protest against degraded working conditions, they proclaimed that technological progress was a political rather than an automatic, inevitable, natural process. Thus, their protest gave rise to a radical critique of the neutrality of science and technology. Moreover as Dubois observed they "had the satisfaction of having dared to maltreat their equipment." Such direct action at the point of production was by no means limited to the United States; it erupted with equal or greater force in France, Italy, Germany, Scandinavia, and elsewhere. There too it signaled a rise of rank-and-file power within the unions and thus a return to the challenge of the second Industrial Revolution in the concrete and in the present.

As with the Luddite revolts of the first Industrial Revolution, resistance to the second Industrial Revolution was met with repression. People were disciplined, jailed, isolated, and otherwise intimidated. In 1970, for example, France passed a new law against "all instigators, organizers or deliberate participants in sabotage."

WE ARE THE CITY



While using the upsurge to advantage at the bargaining table, the unions – liberal, social democratic, and communist alike – condemned much of the direct action and publicly distanced themselves from it.

Management responded to the wave of rank-and-file militancy with disciplinary measures, lock-outs, and legal devices, as well as by designing and introducing new technology that, it was hoped, would diminish the possibility of worker intervention in production or eliminate the need for workers altogether. In addition to these traditional responses, the managers of some companies experimented with new methods – so-called job enrichment, job enlargement, and quality of worklife schemes – designed to absorb discontent and redirect energies along more productive paths.

"England's loss was our gain," John Baker, former general secretary of one of Australia's postal-telecom unions, has observed referring to the fact that many of the convicted Luddites were "transported" to Australia and thereafter had a considerable influence upon the development of Australian trade unionism. "Where the worker responses were active, positive, and assertive on their own immediate interests," Baker noted, "these attitudes flowed through the rest of society with rather positive consequences for most institutions of society" (Australia led Europe and the United States in mass unionism, the eight-hour day, social security, and social democracy). This heritage is still alive in Australia. In 1954, for example, the postal telecom unions refused a continent-wide automated telegraph system until the union had a chance to scrutinize it in terms of efficiency, social necessity, and consequences for those in the industry. In 1977, the Australian Labor Party called for a moratorium on uranium mining and treatment in Australia (following a nationwide strike a decade earlier by railway and transport workers over that issue). That same year saw another series of strikes by the postal-telecom unions over the introduction of a new system. "We won't permit the introduction of an electronic telecommunications network," they declared. "Our members will not move over for a computer." In their refusal to accept the new system, the union employed various forms of industrial action including one which captured the popular imagination: "during the dispute, which the technicians conducted from inside the telecom systems, they cut-over the local-call system to the nationwide long distance system and enabled subscribers to make unlimited long-distance calls for the price of a local call."

"A little bit of creative Luddism might not be amiss until we sort things out," Baker recommended, observing that: The developing consciousness of the Australian trade unionist illustrates the old challenge of the Luddites to the factory-owners "you haven't any right to take over my tools and skills and build them into a machine (that) you, alone, own and whose products you, alone, sell in the marketplace." This old objection is being resurrected again as owners of technology and capital build the skills, experience, and knowledge of millions of office and factory workers into the micro-machine processes that make them unemployed.

MURPHY BROWN GIVES BIRTH TO DAN QUAYLE!

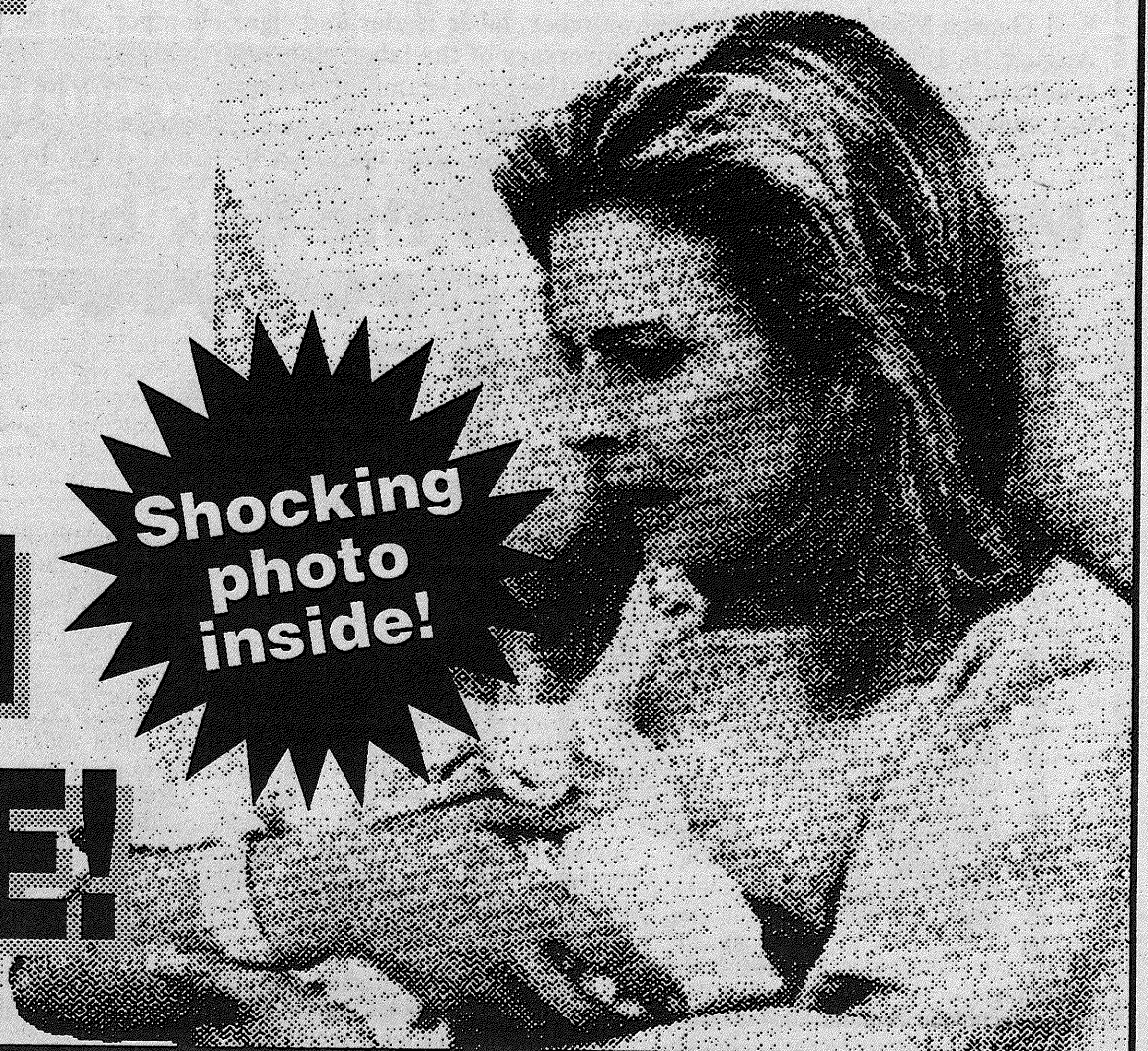
Wage Slave World News

TRASHY JOURNALISM FOR THE WORKING CLASS

JANUARY, 1994

VOL. 4, NO. 10

**Shocking
photo
inside!**



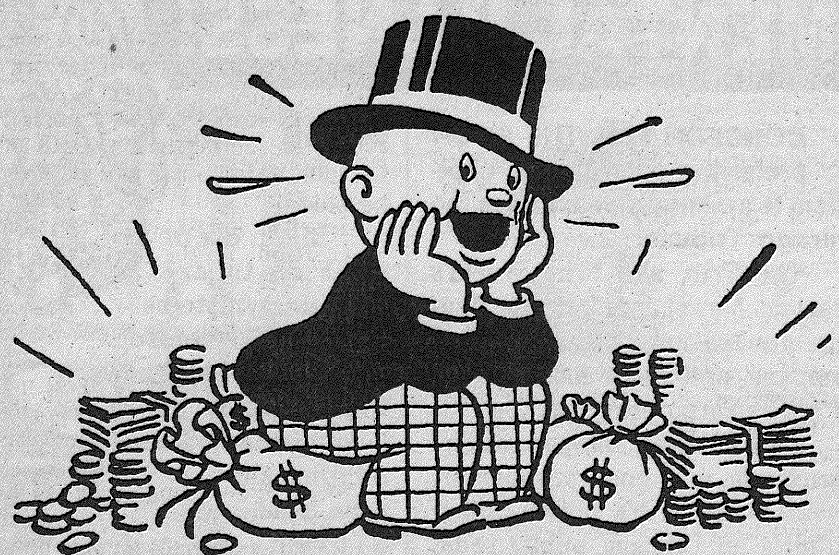
**Hey wage slaves,
if you thought my
stamp contest was
cool, check out the
GEORGE MEANY
stamp contest on
page 2!**

29

USA

ELVIS PRESLEY

UNEMPLOYMENT CAN MAKE YOU RICH!



Amazing secret revealed!

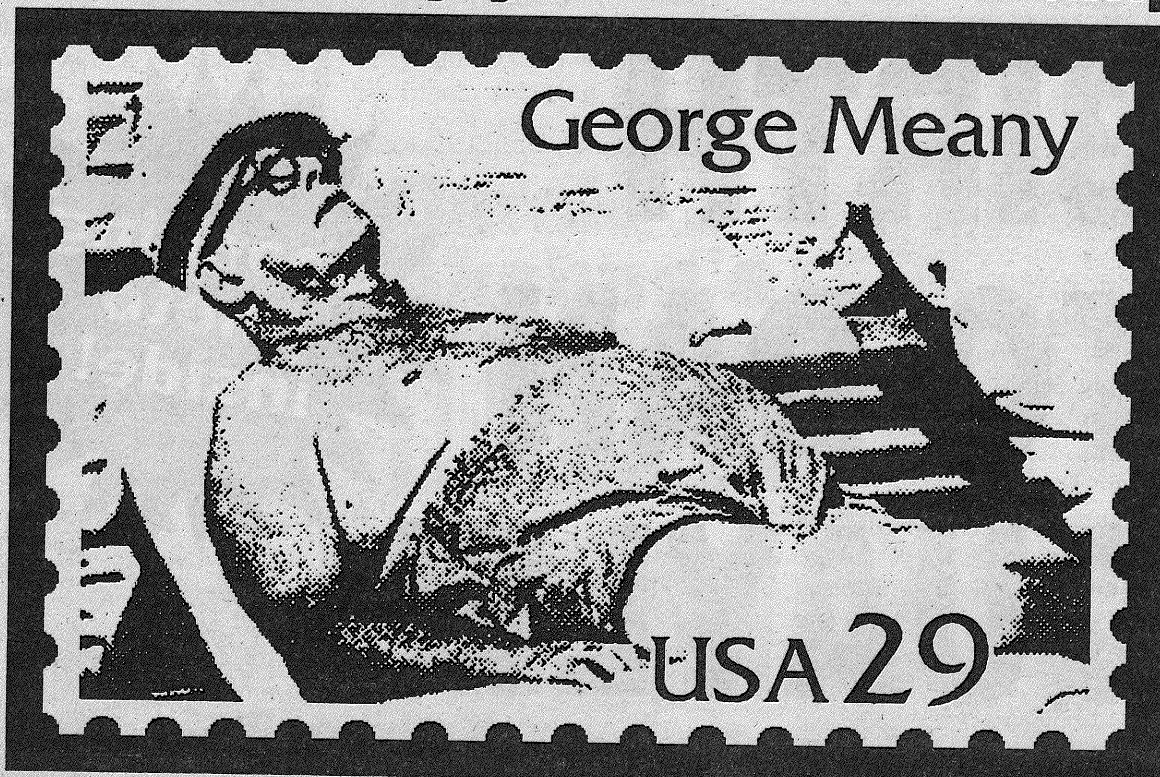
A Wage Slave World News Exclusive!

The George Meany Commemorative Stamp BALLOT

George Meany, labor's favorite plumber, labor leader and cigar chomper, will be honored by the U\$ Postal Service with his own stamp! August 16, 1994, will be the 100th anniversary of the labor giant's birth and cause for a new 29-cent stamp in his honor. In keeping with the tradition begun with the ballot to choose the Elvis stamp, the *Wage Slave World News* is asking readers to help the postal service choose the appropriate stamp to honor Brother George.

Simply check off your favorite George Meany and mail in your ballot! After the ballots are counted we will announce the winner!

Mark an 'X' inside the box by your favorite stamp!



A: ☐

The **HEROIC**
Brother Meany!

B: ☐

The "I'm puttin' the movement back in
the labor movement" Brother Meany!

DON'T DELAY, DO IT TODAY!

Make copies of this ballot,
cut them out, and get your
friends to send them in too!
Mail to:

George Meany Stamp
Wage Slave World News
P.O. Box 1217
Madison, WI 53701

CHICAGO TRIBUNE DISCOVERS NEW MENTAL ILLNESS!

**CONCERN FOR THE POOR
and preferring socialism to capi-
talism is a mental disease says the
Chicago Tribune!**

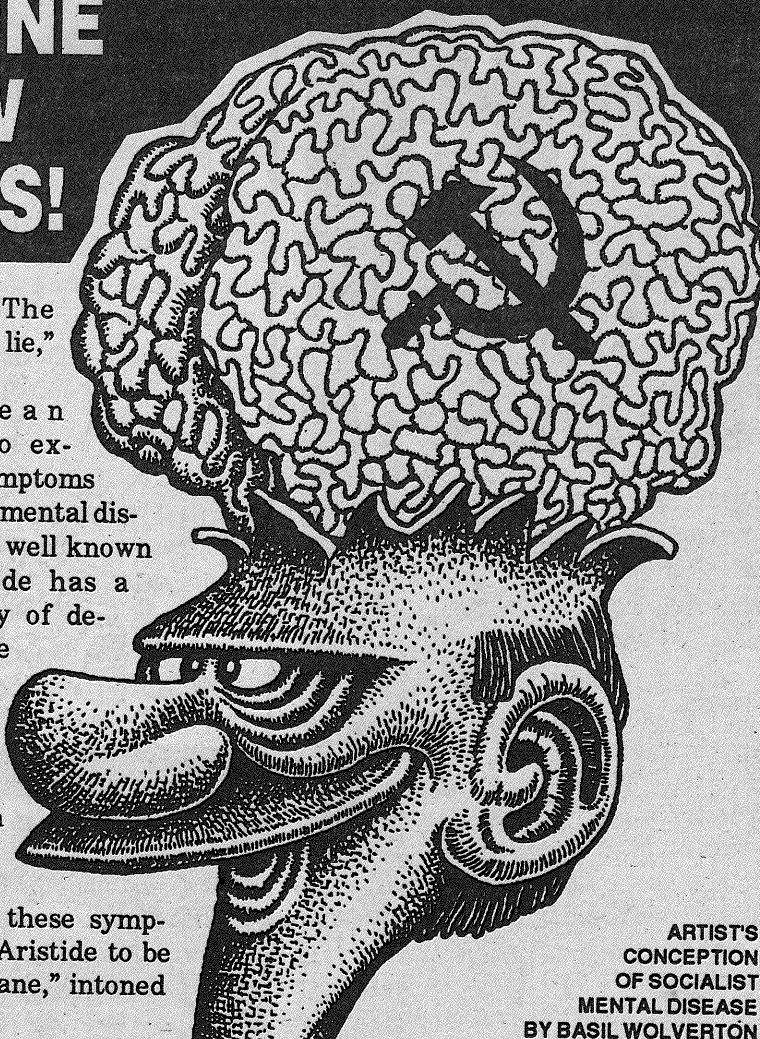
The Trib, aka "The World's
Greatest Newspaper", is the flag-
ship publication of the Tribune
Company, one of the most power-
ful media corporations in the U\$.

John McLean, the paper's for-
eign trade and energy reporter,
revealed the Trib's notion-on-be-
ing-nuts on Chicago public radio
station WBEZ. News anchor
Sandra Gerr asked if it was true
that Haitian president-in-exile
Jean-Bertrand Aristide is mentally
unbalanced, as the CIA had re-
cently "revealed". "Did Aristide
really have mental problems or is
the CIA lying?" asked Gerr.

McLean answered like a true

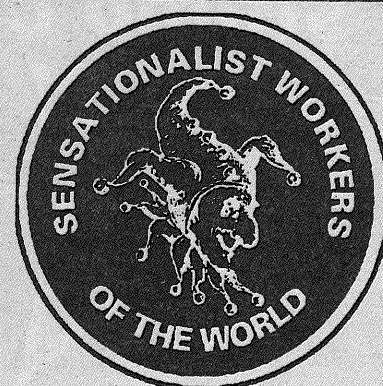
patriot. "The
CIA doesn't lie,"
he said.

McLean
went on to ex-
plain the symptoms
of Aristide's mental dis-
order. "It is well known
that Aristide has a
long history of de-
fending the
poor. In ad-
dition,
Aristide is
a socialist.
Anyone in
their right
m i n d
knows that these symp-
toms prove Aristide to be
patently insane," intoned
McLean.



ARTIST'S
CONCEPTION
OF SOCIALIST
MENTAL DISEASE
BY BASIL WOLVERTON

**WAGE SLAVE
WORLD NEWS**



**VOL. 4, NO. 10
JANUARY, 1994**

Official organ of
the Sensationalist
Workers of the World
Editor: Mike Konopacki
Writer: Jeff Ditz

This is a constitutionally pro-
tected magazine of political
satire. Any similarity to ac-
tual persons is intentional.

MURPHY BROWN GIVES BIRTH TO DAN QUAYLE!

by WALTER CONCRETE
Special to the Wage Slave

FAMOUS TV ACTRESS MURPHY BROWN has given birth to another out-of-wedlock baby, this time it is the former Vice-President of the United States, Dan Quayle!

Astonished doctors couldn't believe their eyes when the baby was delivered. "He came out fully dressed in an expensive business suit, with his patented boyish grin," said one flabbergasted physician. "The first thing he asked was if he could play golf."

Murphy Brown's second pregnancy was a closely held secret. However the Wage Slave World News learned of the bundle-of-joy from outraged employees of the long distance phone company, Sprint.

Sprint workers have been engaged in a long and difficult struggle to organize the phone giant. Rabidly antiunion Sprint management has used every dirty trick in the book to intimidate their employees. "It's very ironic," said one disgruntled Sprint wage slave, "Sprint has hired as its spokesperson someone who was criticized for being a liberal, Murphy Brown. What's a liberal doing shilling for a union-busting corporation?"

Besides her famous TV show, Murphy Brown is known for her well publicized battle with Vice President Dan Quayle over her first out-of-wedlock birth. VP Quayle chastised the show for glorifying single-parent babies. "These liberal TV shows are telling our kids that its cool to have children outside of marriage," said Quayle.

The former VP is a toady for

*The truth is out,
Murphy Brown
is no liberal!*



corporate America and a well known union hater. "Now that Murphy Brown is also a corporate toady, she can no longer be accused of 'liberalism'," said one union leader.

"Murphy Brown is no liberal, the truth has just come out!"



by JEFF DITZ

ARE YOU PART OF THE LAID off over-40 working class? Are you a member of the underemployed 20-something X Generation? Do you have no future? Are you losing everything?

"Enroll in the Dan Quayle Job Retraining Program," says a new ad campaign, "It will make you rich!"

UNEMPLOYMENT CAN MAKE YOU RICH!

According to the Dan Quayle Job Retraining Program all you jobless wage slaves can profit from disinvestment, economic turmoil and misery. With the Dan Quayle Job Retraining Program you can get rich off of unemployment!

The Dan Quayle Program trains people to help useless workers feel better about their unemployment. As a trained Job Retrainer you can pacify the potentially pissed off proletariat, and get

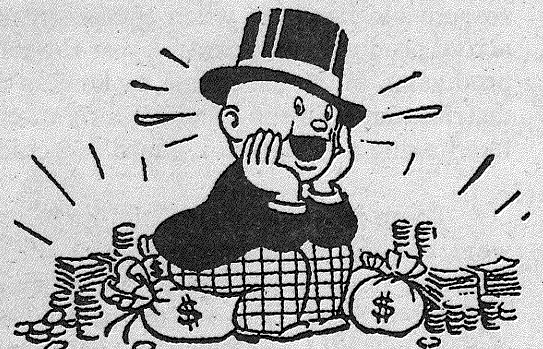
paid for it! By the time these discarded workers have been reprogrammed they will blame themselves for the economic realities that are beyond their control.

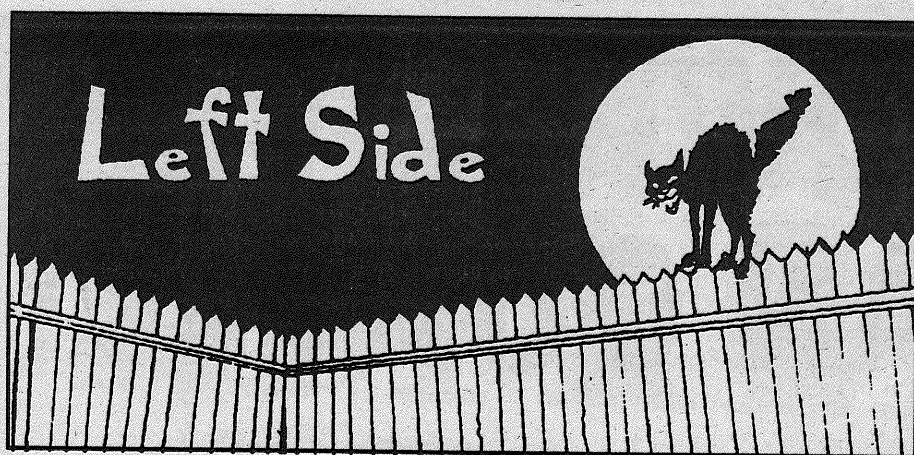
The Dan Quayle Program will provide you with exclusive "subversive or subservient" profiles that you can secretly fill out on each reprogrammed. The DQJRP will assist you in selling this information to the ten thousand private police agencies in the U\$ that are eager to

buy data on the working class. There are big bucks in black lists!

The Dan Quayle Job Retraining Program came to life as a result of the only bill ever written by Dan Quayle, fifth generation rich guy. His bill, the Job Training and Partnership Act lined corporate coffers while pacifying redundant proles.

"I want to encourage all the hapless wage slaves in America to profit from misery just like I did," says Mr. Quayle.





Some years back when yours truly was still a clock-punching working-stiff he happened to be on the negotiating committee at the factory wherein he did his clock-punching. At one of the love-ins between the plant managers and the representatives of the union, that are euphemistically referred to as contract negotiations, there was a breakdown of the air-conditioner in the conference room on a day that happened to be a real scorcher. The plant manager started apologizing as yours truly suggested that he merely open the windows and let in some of the pollution. After all let the factory brass inhale some of the same air that we working-stiffs suck in eight hours a day. Ironically, it was one of my fellow union committee members who made the trite remark that if there was no pollution there would be no jobs. As much as I hated to disagree with one of my fellow working-stiffs in front of management, I had to inform the dude that if there was a tighter rein on pollution, there would be far more available jobs for even more workers.

At that particular moment the factory brass was unusually quiet and indicated a desire to proceed with the business of the day. They were not about to get entangled in a discussion of on-the-job economics, especially not as a prelude to contract negotiations.

Reading a recent article on pollution control, one comes across the following little tidbit: When the federal government proposes to set new limits on how much pollution can be discharged by whom, one response sure to appear prominently in newspaper coverage is, "We can't afford it!" Those who can't afford it, naturally, are the polluters themselves. That great harbinger of humanity's needs, the *Chicago Tribune* in an August article warned that the newly proposed pollution controls for the Great Lakes area would cost in excess of two billion Freedomland smackers a year! Ironically the Trib has its home base in a state that is hard-pressed to keep its schools open.

One has to give serious thought to the correlation between closed schools and environmental deterioration, not to mention economic deterioration for the greater majority of Freedomland's citizenry. The Trib's estimate of the costs of pollution controls was based on a "cost-benefit study" that purports to foresee into the economic and environmental future. Studies such as those along with the attending publicity they get are what's responsible for the prevalent myth that keeping our air and water clean while preventing any further degradation of same will only result in the degradation of "our" economy.

It takes no great stretch of the imagination to figure out whose economy they are talking about when they say "our" economy! These government analysts invariably ask the very polluters for their input when contemplating environmental regulations. The very people they should not ask are those who operate the chemical plants, the steel mills, oil refineries, pulp and paper mills and what have you. As can be well expected they never say that it won't cost too much and that it is worth skimming a little off the profit margin.

That is but another reason that your humble scribe never bothers to vote. These government babies would never consider putting the question of environment control to a general plebiscite for the vast majority of us who do not take our breaks in some unpolluted Caribbean paradise. No Fellow Workers, the only way the environment will be in responsible hands is when that segment of humanity which does the actual producing has control over the jobsite and a say in what they are producing. In the meantime, as long as the machinery of production and distribution is in the hands of a minuscule segment of our species, it is like having a hungry fox guard our chicken coop.

There is an appeal circulating to preserve the sites and areas that were closely associated with the life and writings of Henry David Thoreau. It seems the real estate developers are getting a little too close to Walden Pond. Leave it to the real estate developers and historical shrines will all be overrun by condominiums. Thoreau was the cantankerous anarchist who chose to go to jail rather than to support the war Freedomland was waging against Mexico in the last century. While in jail his Fellow Writer, Ralph Waldo Emerson visited him and asked, "Henry David, what are you doing in there?" To which Thoreau replied, "Ralph Waldo, what are you doing out there?"

I think we are in sore need of more poets!

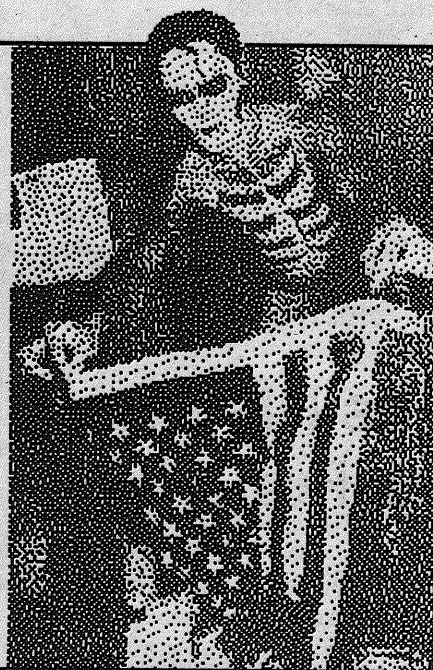
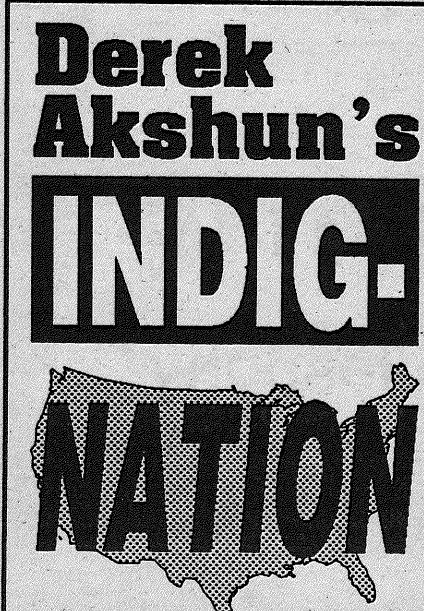
by C.C. Redcloud

HERE'S MY RECIPE FOR LABOR-SKATE SOUP!

"People who compromise don't disappoint me. They disgust me."
- Winona LaDuke, Native American leader -

I'm so mad I'm ready to start cooking Labor Skate Soup for the cannibals. Spice it with diced liberals and it tastes, as you might guess, like pork chops.

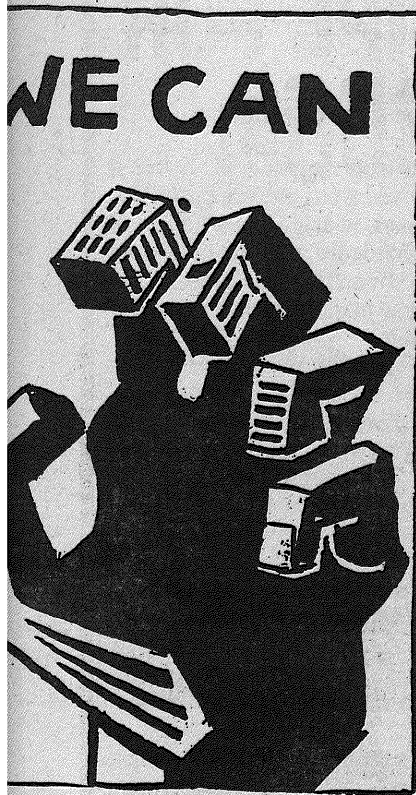
The AFL sell out train rides again. As has been predicted here before, the "big" "unions" are getting ready to sell us out by accepting the re-legalization of company unions. Now you or I might think the AFL would push for legalizing the right to strike in the U\$, or maybe the right to picket, or the right to boycott goods struck by our fellow workers in other worksites. No, in its wisdom the AFL is out to legalize company unions. If that's all the vision Lane Kirkland and crew can muster maybe we can get them seeing eye dogs. The only alternative is a bunch of blind — you are what you eat — cannibals slurping soup.



In exchange for not opposing company unions the AFL is willing to accept a new NLRB rule which would establish union recognition by card counting instead of elections. That way when the AFL spends lots of money and gets prospective member to sign cards they can start collecting dues. They'll be able to collect dues for one year while management in these "organized" work places stall negotiations and force an election. Since signing cards is NOT organizing a union the new "union shops" won't be organized and the "drive" will flop in the second year instead of the first. That some dues will have been collected, I suppose, is to be accepted as "progress" towards the workers cooperative commonwealth. What vision! What determination! What are these guys being paid for selling out?

Spice it with diced liberals and it tastes, as you might guess, like pork chops.

Not that any of this should be a surprise. For a decade and a half the AFL-CIO has been preparing the ground for company unions by spreading the toxic sludge of Work Circles, Team Concept and similar programs. Sold as "worker involvement", these poison programs have nothing to do with real "worker self-management" (which eliminates the bosses). Instead they are a variation on the theme of "support your local police — beat yourself up", here refined as "support your local foreman — speed yourself up." Company unions greatest appeal to middle-aged AFL-CIO bureaucrats and reps is as a place to find work disciplining the workers — which they've been earning their living at anyway — as the unions downsize. For a management paying for discipline of the workers by both management and union hacks it's a chance to downsize expenses and simplify lines of command. For workers it's the same old screw job. Those with hope for a more "pro-labor" presidency from Clinton have misplaced their hope. Those who think the unions can help haven't been paying attention (listen up class). Our hope is ourselves. Our solidarity. Checking every proposal, no matter how well packaged, to see who it benefits and how — does it benefit the class or a few? Does it help management or the workers? There is no middle ground. The mainstream unions WILL NOT challenge the insidious re-legalization of company unions. That task is up to you and me. And following that we need to get our heads together about revitalizing the labor movement.



Sabotage

Its History, Philosophy & Function

by Walker C. Smith

No theory, no philosophy, no line of action is so good as claimed by its advocates nor so bad as painted by its critics. Sabotage is no exception to this rule. Sabotage, according to the capitalists and the political socialists, is synonymous with murder, rapine, arson, theft; is illogical, vile, unethical, reactionary, destructive of society itself. To many anarchist theorists it is the main weapon of industrial warfare, overshadowing mass solidarity, industrial formation and disciplined action. Some even go so far as to claim that sabotage can usher in the new social order. Somewhere between these two extreme views can be found the truth about sabotage.

Sabotage is the destruction of profits to gain a definite, revolutionary, economic end. It has many forms. It may mean the damaging of raw materials destined for a scab factory or shop. It may mean the spoiling of a finished product. It may mean the displacement of parts of machinery or the disarrangement of a whole machine where that machine is the one upon which the other machines are dependent for material. It may mean working slow. It may mean poor work, it may mean missending packages, giving overweight to customers, pointing out defects in goods, using the best of materials where the employer desires adulteration and also the telling of trade secrets. In fact, it has as many variations as there are different lines of work.

Note this important point, however. Sabotage does not seek nor desire to take human life. Neither is it directed against the consumer except where wide publicity has been given to the fact that the sabotaged product is under the ban. A boycotted product is at all times a fit subject for sabotage. The aim is to hit the employer in his vital spot, his heart and soul, in other words in his pocketbook. The consumer is struck only when he interposes himself between the two combatants.

On the other hand, sabotage is simply one of the many weapons in labor's arsenal. It is by no means the greatest one. Solidarity is mightier than the courageous acts of a few. Industrial class formation gives a strength not to be ob-

tained by mere tactics. Self discipline and cooperative action are necessary if we are to build a new social order as well as destroy the old. Sabotage is merely a means to an end; a means that under certain conditions might be dispensed with and the end still be gained.

Sabotage will sometimes be misused, flagrantly so; the same is true of everyone of the weapons of labor. The main concern to revolutionists is whether the use of sabotage will destroy the power of the masters in such a manner as to give the workers a greater measure of industrial control. On that point depends its usefulness to the working class.

There exist today a labor market in which the wage workers sell their power to perform various tasks asked of them by the purchasers — the employing class. The labor power of the workers is a commodity. In selling their merchandise the workers must sell themselves along with it. Therefore they are slaves — wage slaves. In purchasing goods from a merchant one receives an inferior quality for a low price. For a low price — poor products. If this applies to hats and shoes, why not equally to the commodity sold by the laborer? It is from this reasoning that there arises the idea: For poor wages — bad work. This thought is a natural one even to those who agree with society as it is now constituted. To those who do not look upon the wage system as a finality and who have come to regard the employers in their true light — as thieves of the laborers' product — the idea of sabotage commends itself still more strongly. It is a logical weapon for the revolutionist.

Economists have shown that the wages of the workers are not determined by their product. Wages are simply the market price of the commodity called labor power. Wages are not raised or lowered as the productivity of the worker ebbs and flows. They are conditioned upon the supply and demand, the standard of living where the wages are paid, and the relative strength of the organizations of workers and employers. Not many wage workers have studied the deeper economists, but the ditch digger knows that when he has finished the ditch upon which

he is at work he must hunt another master. He instinctively slows up. Self-preservation is one of the first laws of nature. His action has value from a class standpoint, for either more ditch diggers must be employed to complete the work within a given time, or else there is less competition in the labor market for those extra days he labors.

Many who condemn sabotage will be ground to be unconscious advocate of it. Think of the absurd position of the "craft union socialists" who decry sabotage and in almost the same breath, condemn the various efficiency systems of the employers! By opposing "scientific management" they are doing to potential profits what the saboteurs are doing to actual profits. The one prevents efficiency, the other withdraws it. Incidentally it might be said that sabotage is the only effective method of warding off the deterioration of the worker that is sure to follow the performance of the same monotonous task minute after minute, day in and day out. Sabotage also offers the best method to combat the evil known as "speeding up". None but the workers know how great this evil is. It is one of the methods by which employers coin wealth from death consuming the very lives of the toilers. By payment of slightly higher wage to the stronger and more dexterous slave, the rest are forced to keep pace. Those who fall by the way are unceremoniously cast aside to beg, steal or starve. One method used by the saboteur to stop this form of scabbery is illustrated by the following occurrence:

Building laborers were wheeling barrows of material to an electric hoist, following the rate of speed set by their highest paid taskmaster. The pace became so swift that those who were weaker could no longer keep up. During the noon hour one of the men stepped to the wheel barrow of the speeder and tightened the burrs on the wheel. Upon resuming work the task master started at his usual pace but soon was obliged to slow down through sheer weariness. No class conscious worker will join the moralists and vote catchers in condemning this action.

Working class solidarity is simply the result of a consciousness of power. Sabotage, by arming the workers with a weapon which the masters cannot wrest from them adds greatly to the feeling of strength.

SOLIDARITY



Into the 90's

Mass sabotage is in itself a sign of solidarity. The concerted withdrawal of efficiency, by slowing down or other means, is sure to bind the workers closer together. This is true whether they are organized or not. In case they are organized it gives to the workers a greater sense of security as well as additional industrial control.

Individual acts of sabotage, performed to the end that class benefit be derived, can in no way militate against solidarity. Rather they promote unity. The saboteur involves no one but himself and is impelled to take the risk by reason of his strong class desires.

Solidarity between the capitalists does not seem to be affected by their use of sabotage. That they fight each other with that potent weapon is quite evident. That they use it upon the workers is also easily



seen.

Various cases of this capitalist sabotage might be quoted. competitors of the Standard Oil Company often found that legal documents had been improperly executed for them. Rivals of the Sugar Trust had foreign materials introduced into their shipments, and in the fight of Havemeyer against Spreckels the latter's machinery had an unaccountable habit of getting out of order. A Denver brewing company almost ruined a competitor by hiring men to spread the story that a decomposed body had been found at the bottom of its rival's brew-vat. But when it comes to robbing the wage workers these capitalist saboteurs are "banded together like thieves at a fair."

CONCLUSION

Labor produces all wealth — all wealth belongs to labor.

We, the workers, mental and manual, with our muscle, mind and skill, wrest raw materials from the breast of Nature and with infinite pain fashion them into the things of social value. We are the creators — to us belong the products. So far as actual productive processes are concerned we are in possession of industry, yet we have neither ownership nor control because of an absurd belief in property rights.

We stand aghast at the things of our own making. We create property and let it master us. We build things great and small and we who are greater than all stand in abject fear of our own creations; foolishly thinking them to have some supernatural power — some force outside ourselves.

Property and precedent rule us all today and the precedents rest, one and all, upon a property basis. Things of flesh and blood and bone and sinew and tissue are held cheap as compared to the things of iron and steel and stone and brick and wood. "Property is robbery," said Proudhon. If this means that reverence for "property rights" is the basis of all exploitation, then Proudhon was right. The idea that wealth is greater than its creators has enslaved the world's toilers.

We have damned ourselves because we have thought that the right of the bakeshop and the bread was greater than the right of the working man's empty stomach. That same foolish belief has crowded countless thousands into death dealing tenements, while on the healthy outskirts of the city there are numerous vacant dwellings. Garment workers are out at the elbows while the warehouse shelves groan beneath their load of clothing. "Property" is indeed a hideous Frankenstein which will destroy us unless we are first able to destroy the sanctity with which it is surrounded.

Sabotage is discredited by those who believe in property rights. It is the weapon of those who no longer reverence the thing that fetters them. Its advocacy and use help to destroy the property illusion. The parasites, who have property, oppose sabotage, while the producers, who have poverty, are commencing to wield that potent weapon.

Is the machine more than its makers? Sabotage says "No!"

Is the product more than its producers? Sabotage says "No!"

Will you keep private property and public poverty, master class morals and working class misery, capitalism and crime — or will you arise in your outraged manhood and take a stand for sabotage, solidarity and a new social order in which there will be neither master nor slave? For sabotage or for slavery? Which?

—originally published by IWW in 1913—

Capacity Crowd at MCS Conference

More than three hundred people attended a conference on Multiple Chemical Sensitivity in Seattle on November 13, 1993. People with MCS, their families and supporters comprised at least half of the audience and dominated the question and answer sessions, voicing their frustrations with workmen's compensation procedures, the legal system, and the limited number of doctor's educated on the issue of MCS.

Many "concerned" professionals also registered and attended; many were employees of state and local government agencies, but also a large number of interested health care practitioners were present. Local labor union representatives were also in evidence; but, an attorney for Boeing, a representative from Dow Chemical and employees from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries were spotted in the audience during the event.

After a brief introduction by Anna Bachman of WASHCOSH, Karen McDonnell spoke about her own experience contracting MCS while working as a part-time employee for a law firm in Tacoma. Her illness developed when the firm began renovating its office, which exposed her and other workers to hazardous chemicals, glues, paint and off-gassing from new carpets. She eloquently described the variety of health problems

she's facing.

She was followed by three medical experts in the field. First, Dr. Raymond Singer, a noted neurotoxicologist spoke about recognizing and diagnosing MCS. Dr. Iris Bell, a psychiatrist at the University of Arizona, gave a technical presentation on the possible causes of MCS and factors contributing to the onset of the disease, and Dr. Harriet Amman, a toxicologist at the Department of Health's Office of Toxic Substances, described the nature of the illness and spoke about fruitful avenues for further research.

But the discussion heated up during the afternoon panel, which addressed strategies that the MCS community could use in its fight for recognition and prevention of the disease, and how people could fight for compensation from L&I for chemical injuries in the workplace.

The five speakers on the panel were outstanding. Leonard Schroeter, retired counsel from the law firm of Schroeter, Goldmark, Bender and Schroeter, emphasized the long history of corporate/state collaboration in the production of hazardous chemicals and the cover-up of their effects on workers and communities. He briefly discussed the legal options for people with MCS whose compensation claims have been denied by L&I and seemed appalled to hear that no progressive lawyers in Seattle are taking on new

WCS cases. After a hot debate, a chemically injured worker suggested that the best strategy may be to file a class-action lawsuit against L&I, which sparked loud applause from the audience.

Lupe Gamboa, an attorney at Evergreen Legal Services who represents the United Farm Workers of Washington, spoke about the effective campaign of the UFW to ban the pesticide Phosdrin in the state of Washington. He brought Martin Martinez with him to the conference; Mr. Martinez was the first worker to approach the UFW after falling seriously ill from handling Phosdrin. While Mr. Gamboa translated, Mr. Martinez told the audience about his own initial exposure to Phosdrin and the persistent health problems he has suffered since then.

Lupe Gamboa then went on to emphasize that workers are seldom, if ever, warned about the hazards of working with chemicals and pesticides. This problem is compounded when the worker doesn't speak or read English.

The two other speakers, Liz Moses of the Washington Toxics Coalition and Lin Nelson of Evergreen State College in Olympia, emphasized the environmental impacts of chemical production and the necessity to fight for zero production of suspected toxins. The stressed that it's necessary to shift the burden of proof so that the public no longer has to prove that

a chemical is truly carcinogenic before it will be removed from the market (a process that takes years, if not decades). Instead, the burden should fall on private industry to prove that a chemical is safe before it can be mass-marketed or used in manufacturing.

A lively question and answer session followed the speaker's presentations. Many injured workers demanded an explanation as to why their doctors don't know about or recognize MCS, or why they are often referred to psychiatrists who prescribe drugs that make them sicker, rather than treat the real cause of the their illness. One woman told the panel that she had been ordered by her doctor to go directly back to work to "get over it" - by being exposed to more of the same chemicals that had made her sick in the first place.

All in all, the conference showed that there is a large community of people with chemically-related illnesses. They are just beginning to form their own support networks, educate themselves and the handful of doctors who are willing to listen to them, and explore ways to voice their grievances publicly and collectively. IWW Toxics Project
PO Box 20402
Seattle WA 98102
206-367-0477

Ecology, Class and Race

-continued from page 6-

Workers - laid off, sped up, overworked, underpaid - hate the bosses more than any environmentalist. It is working class people who face the environmental problems first and most - where we work and where we live.

Workers and environmentalists are not enemies.

Why don't environmentalists and the unionists work together? Why is the union movement caught in the bosses agenda of "jobs and expansion at any (price to us) (profit to them)"? Why does the environmental movement think it can negotiate with capitalism? Are we all too caught up in the immediacy of our own crises - Cove-Mallard cutting in Idaho, Staley workers locked out in Illinois - to see we have the same enemies and that we are much stronger together than apart. And in whose interest is our separation from our potential allies?

The corporate funded "Wise Use Movement" promotes these divisions. Backed by anti-ecological, anti-worker corporations, like Louisiana-Pacific Lumber, Dupont Chemical and EXXON Petroleum; the Wise Use promoters work for policies that benefit corporate profit at the expense of workers and the environment. Don Judge of the Montana AFL-CIO says "The wise use people are the same people who have devastated union members and people in the timber industry over the years with wage givebacks, unsafe working conditions, and with shipping raw logs off the coast at the expense of millworkers in this country. They are the same people who are funding the campaigns of anti-labor candidates for state and national office."

The wise use promoters also divide communities. A Canadian Parliament report says that the corporations, "have provided 'local citizens coalitions' with much of the organizational impetus and financial backing. Their apparent objective has been to pit labor against environmentalists and environmentally oriented persons. Their effect has been to divide communities and create animosity in the very places where honest communication and consensus should be encouraged." IWW organizers in Northern California and Southern Illinois have encountered this in recent years.

CHALLENGE MANAGEMENT

The environmental movement raises questions about the quality of the world we live in, or whether we live at all. But when it overlooks the role of capitalism and imperialism in the destruction of the world wide environment it limits its own ability to confront the environmental prob-

lems and opens up to capitalist cooptation.

When the business union sends the so-called "health and safety" rep around to okay some dangerous worksite the potential of unionism is strangled by the unions compromises. The "need" of the boss for extra profits from not making the production process safer or the product more ecological and the need of workers for a healthier environment have long been a source of conflict. The business unions, as part of their general failure, have pacified this conflict.

Solidarity against the corporations, based on class and ecological concerns, and developed through practice in our communities has great potential. Economic and ecological problems are huge and immediate. Combining them doesn't make the task any harder (it's more than hard enough), it makes it easier to see the connections and the scope of the problems of our times.

To challenge the effects of production is to challenge managements "right" to determine what is made and how. Mainstream unions long ago abandoned this struggle; yet, challenges to the so-called rights of management are central to any synthesis of environmental and union issues, as well as to any revival of the union movement.

NO COMPROMISE

The pursuit of profit will destroy forests. Ecologists cannot negotiate, legislate or compromise that away.

Environmentalists who doubt this should look into the history of the labor movement and other movements for social justice. Freedom of speech and assembly, universal suffrage, the right to strike, food stamps, public education, housing and other forms of social wage did not come from the good hearts of the rich. All the gains in the period of industrial capitalism have come from struggle, most often bloody, between the classes.

THEIR CULTURE VS OURS

Capitalism destroys workers, communities, and the environment. Capitalism is addicted to eternal expansion. It pulls us all - industrial workers, peasant farmers, indigenous peoples - into its wage slavery.

But workers culture is not capitalist culture. Working class people want a world for our children and their grand children, we want a world that includes our grandparents.

The values of the working class include such principles as: solidarity "an injury to one is an injury to all", internationalism, the sense that we should have

more time for joy and less for work, that work should be meaningful and production should be for people, not profit.

EXAMPLES

Where workers have had work place control in the extractive industries there are examples of ecological practice. Loggers, for example, practiced sustainable tree cutting in Northern Sweden and elsewhere when they had workplace control. Contrast this with the clear-cutting practice of the corporate monsters.

There are inspiring examples of unions and workers movements expressing and acting on ecological issues. Most striking is the Australian Building and Laborers union "green bans" - refusals to work on ecologically unsound development projects - which led to severe attacks upon that union. In Louisiana the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) union was unsuccessful fighting BASF until it built a coalition around industrial ecological and health damage in the community. The Workers Against Toxic Chemical Hazards (WATCH) project at the GM Lordstown plant organized autoworkers around work place methods that were killing autoworkers. The IWW experiment to build anti-corporate connections between timber industry workers and environmentalists a couple of years ago in northern California built some bridges when the issues of rank and file workers were addressed by some Wobblies. The ongoing IWW Industrial Environmental Toxicology Project is networking local Wobblies active in the movement of workers injured by workplace chemicals.

THE WOBBLIES

The IWW statement of revolutionary purpose, the preamble to the union constitution, says the class struggle must go on between capital and the working class until the working class "takes possession of the means of production, abolishes the wage system, and lives in harmony with the Earth."

This is about: Production serving people, not profit. Using society's productive powers to "make this planet a better place to live" to quote an old Wobbly slogan. Reducing the work week to the 10 hours needed for necessary production without profit.

If you want an ugly town let the landlords develop it. If you want a tragic workplace let the bosses decide. There is no magical utopia out there a day after "the" general strike, but, workers and communities deciding how to deal with the factories and forests can do a whole lot

better than what we're getting from the shareholders and CEOs.

BUSINESS UNIONS DON'T GET IT

The mainstream labor movement has been on the wrong side of environmental issues too long and too often. For example, Alexander Cockburn in a recent *Anderson Valley Advertiser* column recounts a conversation with Jim Britell an Audobon Society activist in Oregon. Says Britell:

"The labor unions took a beating on NAFTA. Now remember these unions singled out our environmental champions in the last election and wiped them out. Now, when the unions' core issue comes up, the environmentalists sit it out or take the other side."

Britell concluded, "If corporate America can form coalitions, if Clinton can work with Newt Gingrich, on behalf of international corporations, and we can't do that kind of radical coalition building then we're looking into the abyss."

Cockburn adds, "A popular majority wants to save ancient forests, just as a popular majority wanted to ditch NAFTA. A popular majority (79 per cent in one poll) want single payer health coverage on Canadian lines."

"But whether it's forests, jobs, health, water rights, blacks or gays, the people are losing because there is not enough radical coalition building."

COMMITMENT TO PLACE

Staughton Lynd argues that it is not enough to be committed to the cause. We have to also be part of the community, be committed to where we are, and who and what is there too. The struggle is for the long run.

The ecology of the workplace, its immediate safety as well as long term health effects, are a source of tension between bosses and workers. Mainstream unions ignore that, but if we are to revitalize the union movement we cannot. Environmentalists need more commitment to people and a more clear sense of whose interests are served by environmental destruction. Environmentalists need to be more inclusive of the struggles of people of color and the working class.

If Cockburn's numbers are right then there are a lot of people potentially open to something more radical. Drifting towards doom is not good enough.

Environmentalists and workers are essentially the same people dealing with the same enemies. What is different is what we choose to emphasize, not the general direction in which we're trying to go. We won't get there alone.

- J. Ditz

Maquiladora Solidarity

The union organizing drive at Plásticos Bajacal maquiladora in Tijuana attempted to hold an election Dec.15, 1993. This was the first union election in a maquiladora since the signing of NAFTA and the first in Tijuana in the last 13 years.

But workers were required to vote by voice, with bosses standing close by to take names -- clearly there would be retaliation for a pro-union vote; the workers were intimidated and so the election was declared void.

We are calling on supporters to write letters or send faxes to the company, the Mexican government and US President Clinton, insisting on Mexican workers' right to a truly free and democratic, secret ballot union election.

The significance of this union election goes far beyond the 450 workers at this coat hanger factory owned by the US company, Carlisle Plastics, Inc. With the passage of NAFTA, we were told that the labor repression of the past would not continue. But our own experience provides reason to believe that only extreme vigilance, tremendous publicity, broad international interest and solidarity will ensure union rights.

Only the solidarity of labor organizations and activists throughout the continent can bring everyone up to the highest prevailing wages on the continent, instead of down to the lowest as NAFTA aims to do.

Please write, fax or call:
William Binnie, CEO Carlisle Plastics, fax:617-523-5428 tel:617-557-2600
President of Mexico Lic. Carlos Salinas de Gortari fax: 011-52-5-515-0549 tel: 011-52-5-515-8062 or 515-8065
Robert Reich, US Sec. of Labor fax:202-219-8822 tel:202-219-8271

Please send a copy to Support Committee for Maquiladora Workers P.O. Box 86479, San Diego, CA 92138. For more info, call Jelger Kalimijn at 619-291-0276 or Mary Tong at 619-232-1038.

Ecuador Teachers Strike Suppressed

The Ecuadoran government called a state of emergency and mobilized armed forces to end a 2-month old teachers' strike. The state of emergency, announced on the night of Nov.29, allows individual rights to be restricted, such as the freedoms of expression and assembly.

Army and police moved quickly: Nov.30, 40 hunger strikers were forcibly removed from the Palace of Justice in Guayaquil. In the ensuing clash there was reportedly an exchange of gunfire in which a police captain and a teacher were wounded. Carlos Medina, president of the National Educators Union for Guayas Province, was beaten, thrown into an unmarked car and taken to an unknown destination. Local radio news also reported the beating of a newspaper photographer who refused to turn his camera over to authorities. A parliamentary subcommission on human rights has been trying unsuccessfully to gain Medina's freedom, along with Cesar Candon, another union leader involved in the incident.

Candon is accused of shooting the police chief after a police patrol arrested Medina.

Police and army units surrounded the federal Palace of Justice in Quito, where another 50 teachers were on hunger strike. Students and teachers burned barricades around Quito's Central University, though no clashes were reported.

More than 100,000 Ecuadoran teachers have been on strike since Oct.4. Unconfirmed reports at press time indicate the strike was settled, with teachers receiving a 50% wage hike.



My self-respect is more important than my job.

--Kylee Haviland, Flight Attendant at American Airlines.

Striking Miners Homes & Phones Bugged

Police used high tech snoop devices to listen in on private conversations of dozens of striking union mine workers at Giant Mine in Yellowknife NWT. Courts gave the police permission to snoop on phone lines, homes, cars and boats.

Immediately following the September 1992 explosion in which 9 scabs died, police made it clear that the union would be the target of investigations. RCMP declared the explosion was homicide before any information was known about the nature of the explosion.

Roger Wallace Warren, 49 year old member of Cdn. Assoc. of Smelter & Allied Workers, has been charged with 9 counts of murder. His first court appearance will be February 14. Two other union members are charged with other incendiary acts not involving injury. About 40 union members have been charged with less serious offenses during the strike, and fired as a result. The issue of their firings is now to be separately decided by a government mediator.

Striking miners began returning to work in early December, after the Canada Labor Relations Board found Royal Oak Mines guilty of numerous labor law violations. The CLRB will oversee negotiations, and has the power to impose a contract.



IWW Members: Get Involved in Your Union!

These days, a lot of people are deciding to join the IWW -- no surprise, since Industrial Union organization is the only known method to actually change the economic system into something we can live with! For new or prospective members, here's a brief rundown of what you can expect from your Union, and how you can participate. The IWW is completely democratic, which means it is not automatically run for you. Getting things done -- and done the right way -- depends on active participation by members like you!

Unless you are an employer or a hired thug, you really have no excuse NOT to join the IWW --- in fact, we think it is your RESPONSIBILITY to join and support the only organization for workers in all industries run completely by its members.

All IWW members receive Industrial Worker newspaper(IW), General Organization Bulletin (GOB), both monthly-- and ballots for referendums whenever they occur. GOB and ballots come to you from General Headquarters(GHQ), 1095 Market St. #204 San Francisco CA 94103. Tel:(415) 863-WOBS. IW is currently mailed from Madison GMB, but the subscription office is still at GHQ, and production work is now scattered all over the place.

New members also receive a copy of the IWW Constitution -- currently in draft photocopy form, between updated printings. Study it!

Members are invited to send articles, letters, and graphics to IW. Check out the IW addresses on page 2 and decide where to send your submissions. Members and Branches may also become more directly involved in production or distribution of IW, cooperating with others.

The GOB is for members to discuss internal Union business. It is open for all members' letters on matters concerning Union policy. Members are not allowed to circulate accusations against other members, without providing evidence. Members can speak freely in the pages of the GOB, but experience shows that being respectful of others is most productive. Read your GOB to know what is happening in your Union.

Keep your dues paid up if you want to call yourself a Wobbly. IWW dues are quite low, and this one small effort to support the organization is the most basic obligation of a member. Many members find it more convenient to pay dues ahead for a year at a time, but you

Child Care Workers in Raleigh Strike Local Kindercare Center in Unusual Job Action

18 child care workers employed by the for-profit Kindercare child care facility in Raleigh, NC, (the Highwoods Learning Center, Poplar Court) have begun what is believed to be one of the first job actions in the USA by child care employees.

Kindercare is the nation's largest for-profit child care chain.

The strike was triggered by child care employee concerns about their low wages. Kindercare employees were demanding a pay increase of 20 cents in their hourly wages, which range from \$4.25-\$4.90. Kindercare offered one cent as a response and the child care teachers walked off their jobs December 2.

For more information, contact Renee Sutton, a Kindercare teacher at 919-876-1068. A local child care expert, Susan Russell of Day Care Services, a nonprofit organization which monitors child care teacher wages, can be reached at 919-967-3272. For a national perspective on the issue, call Marcy Whitebook of the Oakland, Calif., based Child Care Employee Project, a national, nonprofit research organization that tracks child care employee issues, at: 510-654-8493.

(nytransfer)



"They're hazardous after longterm exposure... but you'll be laid off long before then."

Be a Wobbly-Join the IWW

Low Dues! Monthly income under \$800: Dues = \$3. Income \$800-1700: Dues = \$9. Income over \$1700: Dues = \$12. Initiation fee: Same as one month's dues. A low income person can join for as little as \$6.

To Join: Mail this form with a check or money order to IWW, 1095 Market Street, Suite 204, San Francisco, CA 94103.

☐ I affirm that I am a worker and that I am not an employer.
☐ I agree to abide by the constitution and regulations of this organization.
☐ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.

Name _____ Occupation _____

Address _____ City _____

State/Prov. _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____ Initiation \$ _____ Dues \$ _____

Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker

Welcome to the Industrial Workers of the World! --mv/iww ottawa

Black Flag Resumes Publication

Autumn 1993 saw the issue of Black Flag #203 in a magazine format. Plans are to publish quarterly, relying on donations. Many loyal readers welcome its reappearance as a source of news about grassroots labour struggles and anarcho-syndicalism in Europe and elsewhere; as well as sharply pointed analysis of current events. The paper had not been coming out since about 1990. The Autumn 93 issue is as lively as ever with diverse reports, and bits of working class history you won't hear about elsewhere. Send them a donation in British currency to: **Black Flag, BM Hurricane, London WC1N 3XX England.**

Coal Strike Settled

United Mine Workers President Richard Trumka announced a tentative settlement in the seven-month coal strike Dec.7. Details of the agreement were to be completed by Dec.14. Trumka praised the 17,500 strikers who "stood tall and proud and fought back," and said the new 5-year contract "guarantees better wages and pensions while protecting our health care and our working conditions." He also said the union "finally drew the line" against company double-dealing. (nyt/ww)

Grand Jury Indicts Denver 3

On January 14, a group of AIDS activists outraged by the Catholic Church's homophobic and AIDSphobic policies draped plastic bags bearing the word "AIDS" over tombstones in a Catholic cemetery. Their message painted a picture of what a cemetery will look like in the not-too-distant future if the Catholic Church continues to oppose the use of condoms to prevent the spread of HIV: a cemetery in which tombstones relay AIDS as the cause of death. Great care was taken to ensure that no harm was done to any tombstone.

8 months later, on the eve of the Pope's arrival in Denver, a grand jury handed down indictments against ACT UP members Madrid St. Angelo, Lorna Wheeler, and Taylor St. John, charging each of them with 2 felonies and 2 misdemeanors. If convicted the Denver 3 could be sentenced up to 18 years in prison. Warrants with bonds of \$50,000 each were issued. The following day all 3 were jailed for periods from a week to 15 days before being released on bonds. Two of the defendants are HIV-positive.

What awaits these AIDS activists is undoubtedly a lengthy and costly legal battle.

THE USE OF A GRAND JURY

A grand jury was used to infiltrate, weed out, and gather testimony from members of the gay and lesbian community to produce indictments against the three ACT UP members.

During the past several decades the grand jury has been used as a means of political inquisition, a way to get activists into secret rooms, ask them questions about organizations, demonstrations, and civil disobedience. People who refuse to testify are thrown in jail in hope that they will become informants. All activists need to be aware of the threat that grand juries pose. If you are involved in political activism, direct action tactics, or civil disobedience, you could be at risk.

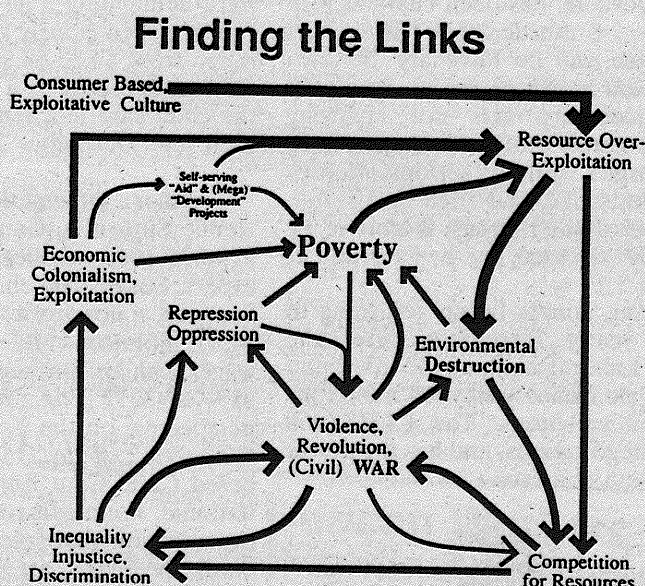
FREE THE DENVER 3

A legal defense fund has been established to aid these 3 individuals with legal costs. For more information please contact the ACT UP chapters below. Please make your checks payable to one of the defense funds listed below:

Freedom Defense Fund
c/o ACT UP/Denver
P.O. Box 9752
Denver, CO 80209
(303) 643-4386

Legal Defense Fund
c/o ACT UP/Chicago
P.O. Box 579002, #275
Chicago, IL 60613
(312) 509-6802

Santa Cruz IWW.



The Wobblies At War: A History of the IWW and the Great War in Australia,

by Frank Cain. Spectrum Publications (Box 75, Richmond Victoria 3121, Australia), 1993, 300 pp., \$19.95.

While the IWW was always an international organization, historians of our union have largely focussed their attention on the U.S. and, to a lesser extent, Canada. *The Wobblies at War* documents the IWW in Australia between 1907 and 1917, drawing largely upon police files. Given the scarcity of information on the IWW down under (the only other book is Ian Turner's *Sydney's Burning*, a lively account of the police frame-up that crushed the Australian IWW), and Cain's careful attention to IWW activities throughout Australia, this is a useful book, even if one wishes for an author more knowledgeable of and sympathetic to revolutionary unionism.

Much of what Cain has to say about the IWW's philosophy is utter nonsense, such as when he asserts that: "The IWW doubly handicapped itself... because not only did it refuse to become involved in political action, but it also refused to adopt the tried and proven techniques of union

organization, such as an elected executive, a functioning office, the collection of dues and membership lists" (p. 16). Elsewhere the IWW is criticized for opposing the Labor Government's efforts to prop up capitalism by deficit spending, and for the "simplistic" argument that the employing class and other parasites live off the surplus generated by workers' labor. Yet despite the appalling ignorance demonstrated in such statements, and his belief that the IWW no longer exists, Cain has uncovered a wealth of information about the IWW's activities.

While the IWW was first established in Australia in 1907, it did not really take off until 1913, when local Wobblies shed their early ties to political parties and launched a fierce attack against the Australian Labor Party, which was then just beginning its long career of class collaboration and betrayal. Our Australian fellow workers launched their own newspaper, *Direct Action*, in 1914, and their unrelenting

efforts quickly made them the ruling class' most feared antagonists. The Australian IWW never had a substantial industrial presence, rather it was a band of rebel workers agitating for revolutionary industrial unionism and working-class solidarity--and against the system of government-enforced arbitration which was already hobbling the labor movement. But IWW members were active in rank-and-file rebellions against the bosses and the business unions, helping workers improve their conditions while the labor fakers were trying to keep them down.

A series of chapters discusses the IWW in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Western Australia, and in the Broken Hill mining district where the IWW established so strong a presence that the Amalgamated Miners Association accepted IWW membership cards on an equal basis to their own.

Australian Wobblies organized against World War I, waging highly effective propaganda against military

enlistment and the draft. They played the leading role in the successful campaign against conscription, but in the process convinced the government that it must crush the IWW if it was to hold onto power. In 1916 the government declared war against the IWW, sending at least 103 Wobblies to jail on various pretexts, deporting 29 across the seas, and outlawing the organization.

Cain includes many cartoons and photographs from the IWW press, unfortunately these are generally poorly reproduced and lack information on when they were originally published. The book can also be a bit hard to follow as it jumps back and forth in time. Nonetheless, those interested in studying the history of the IWW in Australia will be hard put to find a more useful starting point.

--Jon Bekken

Book Reviews

Break Their Haughty Power: Joe Murphy in the Heyday of the Wobblies,

A biographical novel by Eugene Nelson. \$12, 367 pages with illustrations. ism press (Box 12447, San Francisco CA 94122)

Originally this book was intended to be an autobiography by old timer Joe Murphy as told to the author, Eugene Nelson, via interviews with cassette recorder. Unfortunately Joe passed on before his reminiscences were completely put down on tape. The author and the publisher decided then to publish it as an autobiographical novel and the results make fascinating reading. It should be remembered, of course, that with autobiographies, novelistic or otherwise, the subject is not necessarily above augmenting or deleting certain details according to one's advantage.

Murphy was but one of many hard-bitten individuals who devoted a considerable portion of their lives to the building and propagating of the Industrial Workers of the World. He tells of leaving home at an early age by hopping a freight train. This train happened to be full of Wobblies on their way to a strike situation in the harvest fields and whose modus operandi was to put anyone who did not have a Red Card off the train to avoid having more scabs coming to the struck fields.

Because Joe had already read some IWW literature he convinced the men in the boxcar that he was on their side and promised to line up at the first opportunity. They took him at his word and he did line up when arriving at his destination and his career as a Wobbly had begun. Murphy had probably been sold on Wobbly philosophy prior to getting on that boxcar, but the rest of the book is about his travels and his organizing efforts around the country.

He tells of the various organizing drives he was on and of the repression against the organization by the powers that be--police departments, federal troops and the armies of ne'er-do-well vigilantes organized by the employing class. If no other lesson is presented, the reader will see that the employing class and its subservient forces of law and order will stop at nothing in efforts to keep the worker from making any material progress.

He tells of Centralia, Washington, where hundreds of Wobblies were kept in deplorable conditions in the local jail and of the brutal first-hand accounts of the murder of Wesley Everest and

Frank Little by vigilantes. He came into personal contact with many of the figures who made labor history in those days.

Also mentioned is some of the unpleasant history of the infamous Emergency Program (EP), which split the organization in two and of his efforts at bringing the two factions together again through important organizing situations that were in large part successful. He also tells of the valiant but unsuccessful attempt to organize the workers who were building Boulder Dam but could not overcome the massive opposition the federal government brought to bear.

He gives vivid accounts of riding boxcars or getting on underneath "riding the rods." He tells of railroad police who were lenient toward hobos riding blind baggage as well as those who flaunted their position of authority. One train "bull" in particular was very sadistic; his favorite stunt was to tie an iron pin to a length of cable, lowering it between boxcars. Bouncing off the ties it would cut to ribbons whatever poor hobo happened to be riding the rods underneath. The only thing that saved

Joe on one such trip was the advice that was given him by another Fellow Worker to lay some plank on the rods so he could ride more comfortably. As it was, the bouncing pin was tearing away at his planks but he managed to grab the cable and yank it out of the bulls hands. He swore that he would kill that bull someday and one day he did track him down to his home. Murphy looked in through the window and saw the bull and his family. The bull was by then a drunken slob, his wife no better off, and the son abusive to both of them. Joe says he had fully intended on sending that bull to Hell but saw that he was in Hell already.

This book has some old photographs of some of the luminaries that Murphy came in contact with, as well as some of the job situations and shots of IWW halls vandalized by police and vigilantes.

Fellow Worker Nelson has done his usual beautiful job of bringing Joe Murphy's reminiscences into a most readable tome and your reviewer enthusiastically recommends adding this book to any working stiff's book shelf.

-- Carlos Cortez

1994 IWW Calendar

A revolutionary labor calendar with 14 striking photographs of labor struggles from around the world and hundreds of notes to remind you of important dates in our struggle against wage slavery.

\$7.50 per copy. \$4.50 each for 5 or more (postpaid)

IWW Calendar

Box 204, Oak Park IL 60303-0204

MUSIC

IT TAKES A LOT OF PEOPLE (tribute to Woody)

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Live album of Woody Guthrie songs and songs written by Long and children of Oklahoma as tributes to Woody. "Bound for Glory", "Oh Freedom", & "This Land is Your Land".

I HAVE SEEN FREEDOM

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Your Labor -- Or Your Life?

Murder is the number one cause of death for women at work in the USA. Does this suggest that there is a problem with the way industries are managed? Or should we blame the victims for being in the wrong place at the wrong time?

The State of New York has the most murders on the job, estimated at 867 in the 1980's. Also high on the list are Alabama, Connecticut, Maryland, Michigan, South Carolina and Washington DC.

In all, 62,289 non-military U.S. workers died on the job between 1980 and 1989 from various causes. That works out to 17 workers killed each day. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death on the job, when both men and women are totalled across the country. Second is machine injuries, and homicide is third overall.

States with the highest total numbers of workplace deaths are: Texas, California, Florida, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

In U.S. mining industries, 32 out of every 100,000 employees dies on the job. Next worst industry is construction: 25 out of every 100,000.

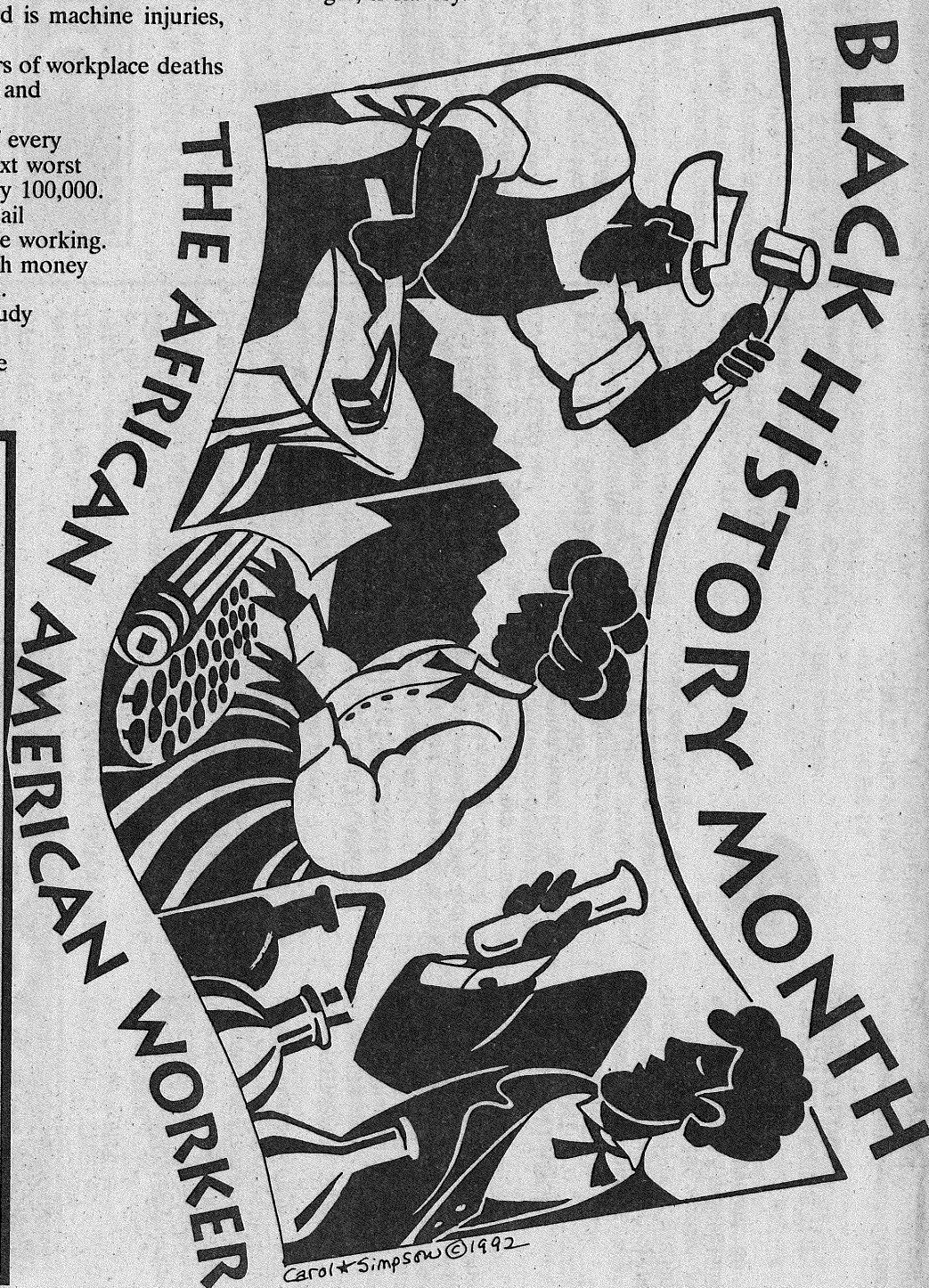
Taxi drivers, police officers, and retail workers are most often murdered while working. The highest risk is anyone working with money or valuables, or working alone at night.

The above information is from a study by National Institute of Occupational Safety released in November 1993. The

statistics show, if any more proof was needed, that working for wages when industry is controlled by a spiral of greed, is becoming intolerably dangerous to human health. In fact, it appears that working people's lives do not have any value on the boss's bottom line.

When working people shall take over industry and run it for themselves, late-night cashiers will not leave themselves unprotected; miners will not enter a dangerous shaft until it is made safe; construction and factory workers will take the time to operate machinery safely.

To work for a living is dignity. To live -- and die -- for wages, is slavery.



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